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**ELVIS FANS ARE IN PORTHCAWL**  
PAGES 7, 9 and 25

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**Work starts on landmark Porthcawl buildings**  
Pages 3 and 4

## MAESTEG MAN IS JAILED FOR A 'SUSTAINED ATTACK' ON LOCAL WOMAN

A woman believed a man was going to kill her when he carried out a sustained attack at her home in Bridgend, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

The victim repeatedly begged Neil Owens to stop.

He shouted: "I may as well finish you off, I'm going to get five years, anyway."

Owens (39) of Commercial Street, Maesteg, was jailed for two years, after pleading guilty to causing the woman actual bodily harm.

He denied a charge of sexual assault and it was directed that it lie on the file.

Judge Michael Fitton told him: "Your record indicates you are a violent man who has difficulty in controlling yourself, particularly with women."

He warned him that if he re-offended, he would be assessed as

by AJ SICLUNA

dangerous and would receive an extended sentence.

The judge said that Owens had targeted a vulnerable woman in her own bedroom.

He said she had suffered injuries, as well as psychological harm.

Prosecutor Rebecca Griffiths said they met in a pub in Bridgend and they went back to her home.

At one point, as she lay on her bed, he began "screaming, shouting and ranting."

He lunged at her and grabbed and squeezed her neck, before biting her left cheek. He again grabbed her by the throat. He also ripped her pyjamas.

At that point, she said, the victim believed she could be killed.

She ran downstairs and shouted for help.

As Owens approached her, she said: "If you're going to kill me, kill me."

Soon afterwards, she sought refuge in a neighbour's flat.

Police later found Owens hiding in the bedroom. He said: "I have hurt her. I didn't want to. You don't know what I've been through, I can't help it."

The court heard that Owens had convictions for harassment and domestic violence.

His counsel, John Hipkin, said: "For 35 years, he led a blame-free existence. He has expressed to me sincere remorse for the attack."

The judge made a restraining order for an indefinite period preventing Owens from having any contact with his victim.

He was also banned from going within 100 metres of her home.

## Flying Duchess pays a flying visit to the Sandville Self Help Centre



Photo by MALCOLM NUGENT.

*It was a busy day at the Sandville Self Help centre in Ton Kenfig on Wednesday, September 21, when the Duchess of Gloucester paid a flying visit. It was flying in both senses of the word, as she arrived by helicopter, and her aides had allocated 45 minutes for a tour of the many features and facilities that have been added to the centre since it first opened. She is pictured above, with Sandville founder Gwyneth Poacher, meeting members of Gwyneth's family. For more pictures and a report, turn to page 21.*

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# Masterful compère Huw regales memorial concert



Huw Edwards with the Bridgend Male Choir music team.

**EILEEN PRICE**, secretary at Capel Tabernacl, Pontycymer and her small team do a marvellous job of maintaining this wonderful place of worship and were worthy of the huge praise lavished upon them by concert compère, the BBC's Huw Edwards who has strong family links with the Garw Valley.

Octogenarian Eileen, a former pupil at the grammar school in the

village before the arrival of a certain schoolmaster, Hywel Teifi Edwards (Huw's father), found herself among other retired teachers and pupils in the congregation and choristers, all with stories to tell.

The masterful Huw Edwards, on his return to Pontycymer, regaled those present with a brief history of the late Merlyn Maddock's contribution to harp-making and flight particularly and in a demeanour and humour which is impossible to reveal very often in his newsreader 'day job' at the BBC.

Keeping the content

flowing, he praised all contributors during the evening, revealing his pride in his Welsh heritage throughout.

The sell-out concert opened with the award-winning Bridgend Male Choir, under the baton of musical director Ryan Wood and support team of Stephanie Bailey (piano) and Scott Williams (organ). The choir entertained with both robust and quiet singing, revealing a diversity in content and sound, which found favour with an appreciative congregation.

Included in the content were two items recently taught to choristers: *Tell My Father and What Shall I Do Without My Music*. The first piece, a story of a father and son relationship in the American Civil War, was preceded by narration of the Gettysburg Address by chorister Peter Morgan and followed by the ever popular, *American Trilogy*. This was the choir at its best.

Interspersed between the male choir's contribution was a school choir of Ffaldau Primary and Eos, a harp-and-vocal trio from the Garw and Llynfi valleys. The school content was really well delivered. Mr Edwards commented on the clarity of diction and musicality of this group of 20 pupils. He praised the content choice and stated his favourite was *Count On Me*, although it was hard to choose.

Teachers and pupils had clearly put in a lot of practice to achieve the standard on the evening. The trio, Eos, was a joy to hear and also received much praise from Mr Edwards. "Just what was needed to bring contrast," was his comment. The harp playing was wonderful and harmonies

from the vocalists, both lyrical and beautiful. All four items were exquisite, but, if the author had to choose, Robat Arwyn's *Benedictus* was the choice for its haunting melody and note clarity.

The congregation joined the choirs to sing together *Cwm Rhondda* and *Calon Lan* and it will have been a while since such a rousing choral contribution will have been heard in Tab.

The compère saved his greatest praise until last, when he introduced Lena Charles, 98 years young, to all present. A Garw Valley native, Lena had recently been honoured by the Queen for her service to the community.

After acknowledging a genuinely warm applause, Lena set about a quite lengthy recitation, almost without reference to her notes, telling a story of long past, but which is still hugely relevant today.

The evening ended with officials of the Bridgend branch of the charity, Parkinson's acknowledging a donation of £1,000 towards its considerable financial fundraising objective to help find a cure for the disease.

*Hen Wlad Fy'n Hadau* brought a great evening's entertainment to a close, with many comments during leaving wishing for the next one.

BMC can next be heard at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl on Saturday, October 8 raising funds for an equally worthy charity, Marie Curie Cancer Care. BMC will be accompanied by Cornwall's Four Lanes Male Voice Choir and soprano Rhian Hughes from Maesteg. Tickets are available on the door before the 7pm concert start.

## Readers' Letters

### FREE TRADE AND THE DEFICIT

**A** LETTER in The GEM on September 22 refers to the number of French and German cars pouring into Britain and asserts that we buy a lot more from them than they do from us.

That is an absolutely correct assertion. But it's precisely because we buy more from the EU than they do from us, that we have a negative trade deficit, and if a free trade agreement cannot be secured, that deficit will worsen, to Britain's disadvantage.

Certainly, other countries will be 'friendly' towards us, but none is going to sacrifice its own trade advantage just to prop up Britain; this country no longer manufactures or produces what they already obtain elsewhere.

To hope that other countries will throw away tried and tested trade agreements just to please Britain, is hoping for manna from heaven.

Indeed, the reluctance to call article-50 itself indicates that those in the know are aware that Brexit is a disadvantage and are trying to buy time.

**Marc Delaney, Barry.**

### Lessons to be learnt from BHS

**A**N acquaintance who votes Conservative told me of her disgust at the Sir Phillip Green scandal and how sorry she felt for the thousands of lives ruined.

I attempted to explain that if she believed her facts were accurate, she had a clear duty to urge her elected Government to legislate so that no other single person, good or bad, could attain such destructive power over thousands of other lives.

But I could see that I

had already lost her attention. That was the limit of her interest; she might indeed feel sympathy for employees made unemployed and stranded without pensions, but she did not feel even for a second, that she had any moral duty to do anything about it.

BHS went bankrupt owing £4 million. We need a law that any auditors who fail to inform the authorities that a corporation has gone beyond £1 million debt of other people's money, should themselves go to prison.

**Neville Westerman, Brynna.**

### COST OF A PINT

**Y**ESTERDAY I had the pleasure of having a new £5 note in my right hand; in my left hand, I held a 1914 half crown (still legal tender until 1971); there were eight half crowns in every pound, which would make 40 in a £5 pound note.

In 1950, just out of the army (aged 20) I could buy and drink four pints of cider (scrumpy) in the Rose and Crown, Kingsway, Cardiff and have 2d change. Now this £5 note will not even buy you two pints.

Makes you think!

**Vivian Nethercott, Rhiwbina.**

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## Recycling plant plan at South Cornelly is 'withdrawn'

**A** regional Welsh Conservative, AM Suzy Davies, has welcomed news that South Wales Wood Recycling (SWWR) has withdrawn its planning application to open a new centre in South Cornelly.

Ms Davies said: "It is unclear at the moment whether SWWR will subsequently re-apply, but I am sure that the campaigners in Cornelly and Porthcawl will carry on drawing up their case against these plans. I had already objected to this proposal on the grounds of dust, noise and other health threats."

She made her comments shortly after a fire broke out at the company's facility in Coity, Bridgend, in the early hours of Monday, September 18. Hundreds of tonnes of woodchip were destroyed in the blaze.

"But the possibility of a fire breaking out in these woodchip piles has been brought sharply into focus by the fire that has taken place this week at their depot near Heolgycew."

"This is the third fire that this firm has suffered over the past year at their various sites, so the fears of Cornelly residents on this score would appear to be justified."

## Sarn group 'Breathe Easy'

**SARN Breathe Easy Group** recently held an informative and enjoyable get-together with Huw Irranca-Davies, AM for Ogmore.

Talks were given by specialist health advisors about the overuse of antibiotics, and lung specialist, Avril Tucker gave a detailed briefing about this increasing problem.

Presentations were also given by Halo Leisure, highlighting its schemes to support pulmonary rehabilitation, helping people to cope with chest conditions and explaining the benefits of exercising with a lung condition.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "The 230 'Breathe Easy' support groups are a great way of providing a meeting place for people with similar conditions to share stories and gain valuable information."

To find out more information about your local Breathe Easy Group see [www.blf.org.uk](http://www.blf.org.uk) or ring 0300 030 555.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
29 Thur	06.16	9.3	18.34	9.6
30 Fri	06.55	9.8	19.12	9.9
01 Sat	07.31	9.9	19.46	10.0
02 Sun	08.03	9.8	20.17	9.8
03 Mon	08.32	9.7	20.46	9.7
04 Tues	09.01	9.6	21.13	9.5
05 Wed	09.32	9.3	21.44	9.2
06 Thur	09.59	9.0	22.15	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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# Work begins on 'The Rest' refurbishment

WORK is starting on the conversion of 'The Rest' convalescent home in Porthcawl – but the developers have warned that the initial work will focus on making the roof watertight, and that the main conversion work will not start until the summer of 2017.

Following the closure of the home in 2013, the owners obtained planning permission to convert the Grade II listed building into 34 apartments with a further 34 new build apartments with golf course views built in the grounds behind.

In August, regeneration experts, Acorn Property Group, who have played a key role in development of coastal sites in Devon & Cornwall, entered into a joint venture agreement with the owners to restore and develop the buildings.

An Acorn spokeswoman said: "Despite the historic nature and excellent location of The Rest, no traditional housebuilder was prepared to take the risks needed to invest in this project.

"The challenges



DEVELOPERS 'EXCITED' BY PORTHCAWL CHALLENGE

associated with the conversion of a listed building and the vision required for such a special location meant that the site needed a unique set of regeneration skills.

"Furthermore, the already dilapidated building has been empty and has rapidly fallen into serious disrepair."

The managing director of Acorn in the Cardiff office, James Groombridge, continued:

"We are really excited to be involved in such an important project and are looking forward to using the group's skills and experience to bring this magnificent building back to its former glory."

He added, "Every time we visited the site local residents have been

enquiring as to when work will start. It is evident that The Rest is much loved and they want to see it brought back to life."

Working with Bridgend's planning and conservation officers, Acorn Property Group are now beginning the redevelopment.

The first priority will be the roof repairs to make the building watertight and stop further damage to the fabric of the building.

This will be followed by demolishing the modern extensions, timber and damp repairs and removing the asbestos.

After this, Acorn will begin the delicate business of restoration and conversion.

Julian Hampson, group design director at Acorn said: "We are

incredibly excited about the potential of these buildings and making the most of the opportunity that this site has to offer.

"The local Acorn team and their various construction and design professionals have already spent several months working in and exploring these grand buildings.

"We have discovered many lovely features previously hidden over the years and are looking at ways that previously inaccessible parts of the buildings can be brought back into use, creating rooms and spaces full of historic character."

Over the next six months, Acorn will be investing over £600,000 on repair and design work and hope to start the main conversion

works in the summer of 2017. The Rest, an historic coal miners' convalescence home, has dominated the Porthcawl skyline since it was built in 1878.

The founder of The Rest, Dr Lewis, appointed the renowned architect, John Pritchard, to design the original building.

Pritchard had previously been involved in the restoration of Llandaff Cathedral and numerous other churches in Glamorgan.

Florence Nightingale gave advice on the design of the new convalescent home and took a keen interest in the project.

# Proclamation march for Urdd Eisteddfod in Bridgend centre

THOUSANDS of people are expected to march through Bridgend town centre on Saturday, October 8 – during the proclamation festival for the May 2017 Bridgend- Taff-Ely Urdd national Eisteddfod.

The march will begin at 11.30am from Bridgend College, making its way to the sound of brass and samba bands to Newbridge fields by 12.15pm, where the celebrations will continue until 3pm, with an afternoon packed full of free entertainment for the whole family.

It will include performances from Syrcas Circus, S4C's Stwnsh presenters and Cyw characters, goods stalls, the Bridgend Big Band, singer Danielle Lewis, Cpt Smith and performances by local schools, 'adrannau' (Urdd youth clubs) and groups. Sports activities will also be held by the Urdd Sports department.

According to Tegwen Ellis, Chair of the executive committee: "We are really looking forward to welcoming everybody to Bridgend as part of the proclamation festival.

"Every school in the Bridgend, Taff-Ely areas have been invited to take part in the march and we can't wait to see the region's young people marching together through the town's streets from Bridgend College to Newbridge fields."

Coun Mel Nott OBE, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "The Urdd Eisteddfod offers a unique opportunity to celebrate our heritage, our future and the amazing talents of our young people.

"With widespread coverage in the media and the expectation of up to

100,000 visitors to Bridgend county borough for the event, the Urdd is likely to be worth £6m or more to the local economy.

"The proclamation march will be the first step in marking the Urdd's arrival, and I hope that people of all ages will come to enjoy the march and activities, to visit local shops, cafes and eateries, and to help give the Urdd the warmest of welcomes."

## 'WEAR RED, WHITE AND GREEN' - CALL

People are encouraged to wear patriotic red, white and green on the day, and Eisteddfod 2017 goods will be for sale on the field, including hoodies and T-shirts.

Aled Sion, director of the Urdd Eisteddfod said: "The support we have received to date from people in the area to the Urdd Eisteddfod's coming, one of the largest travelling festivals in Europe, has been fantastic.

"We are extremely grateful for the assistance provided by Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils, as well as the local community, schools and groups.

"I look forward to a lively proclamation festival and a day of celebration, looking ahead to May 2017."

A cash prize is being offered to the winners of a competition to create and display a banner on the day, which promotes the school/adran (club) and highlights the coming of the Eisteddfod. Welsh, Urdd and Owain Glyndŵr banners are also welcome on the march.

## BOLLYWOOD EVENING WILL RAISE FUNDS FOR NSPCC

NSPCC supporters in Bridgend are set to stage a Bollywood evening to raise much-needed funds for the charity's work with children and young people, and are inviting other

local people to come along and get involved.

The event will take place at Court Colman Manor on Friday, October 28 at 7.30pm and guests can look forward to a drinks reception, Bollywoodette

performances, a two course dinner, raffle, DJ and dancing. There is a prize for the best dressed guest and Bollywood dress is optional.

Money raised through the event will help to fund NSPCC services such as its school service, which delivers safeguarding assemblies

and workshops to five to 11 year olds in primary schools across the country. The age-appropriate sessions help children understand what abuse is and how to get help if they need it.

An NSPCC Cymru / Wales spokesperson said: "We want local people to join us in our fight for every childhood and by coming along and showing your support at this event you can help the charity continue its life-changing work with children and young people. We are extremely grateful to the event organisers for their efforts."

For further information about attending the event, contact NSPCC Fundraising support on 029 2010 8133 or walesappeals@nspcc.org.uk.

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# BACK TO LIFE! The Jennings's building project should be up and running by next summer!

by PHILIP IRWIN

**WORK has begun on a project that will bring Porthcawl's Jennings Building back to life by next summer.**

Workers from Wales-based developers ABA Holdings have started transforming Jennings Building and Customs House after Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) granted them a long-term lease on the property.

The timescale for the project is eight-months.

When completed, the ground floor will offer several new commercial units, including a 5,000 sq ft theatre-style kitchen restaurant and bar – complete with a full-height atrium, and the upper level will feature 13 'live-work' units complete with loft bedrooms that will enable occupants to live and work on site.

A BCBC spokesman said: "All 13 of the live-work units have already been taken up, and the businesses that will occupy the restaurant and other commercial units will be announced as soon as negotiations are complete."

"More than 30 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project, and when complete, a further 50 positions will be established throughout the revamped premises."

ABA Holdings are investing £2.5m in the



Jennings Building pictured at the weekend. Work has now begun on the project.

project with support from Finance Wales and townscape heritage funding provided via BCBC from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadw.

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said:

"This exciting and highly ambitious project forms an important part of our ongoing regeneration plans for Porthcawl. "ABA Holdings have demonstrated a strong track record when it comes to redeveloping listed and historic buildings, especially with their work on the Grade II Pump House in Barry or the redevelopment at St Fagans' National History Museum.

"I have every confidence that the new-look Jennings Building and Customs House is going to be a first-class facility within Porthcawl's harbour quarter, and will serve as a major focal point for visitors and tourists as well as residents of Porthcawl."

Built in 1832, the Jennings Building is widely considered to be one of the few remaining early dockside warehouse buildings from its era in south Wales.

It was originally constructed as the southern terminus of the Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl horse-drawn tram road, which was used to transport iron and coal from the Llynfi Valley.

## Wales' head coach Howley has a message for his old school...

**WALES' Head Coach has helped the NSPCC deliver an innovative service for children at his former school.**

Rob Howley went to Oldcastle Primary to speak to the children about a vital 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' scheme by the NSPCC charity, which has already reached more than 80,000 children since it was launched in Wales.

Specially trained volunteers have now delivered assembly presentations during more than 1,500 school visits to help children understand abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs that it's happening; learn how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse; and know how to get help and support.

As well as assembly presentations for all primary schoolchildren, one-hour workshops are also provided for pupils in years 6 – 7.

Online safety has recently become a focus of the service, which aims to ensure all 5 – 11-year-olds have access to essential information on how to stay safe from abuse and neglect.

Recent figures – obtained by NSPCC Cymru/Wales – showed more than 150 online grooming offences had been recorded by police here in the last five years. In each case, an adult met a child following interaction online.

Howley said: "It's an honour to be invited



back to my former school and to help the NSPCC deliver this invaluable service.

"Oldcastle holds many special memories

and to be given the opportunity to deliver this important message to pupils here is a great privilege."

## Y BONT THANKS BRIDGEND ROTARY

CLARE Jenkins, who work closely in fundraising manager of Bridgend charity Y Bont, attended a meeting of Bridgend Rotarians to thank them for their financial support.

Clare explained how the charity started 19 years ago, with help from Rotarians Byron Morgan and Ann McAllister, both sadly now deceased.

Each year, approximately 140 disabled children and their families benefit from a wide range of support services, including pre-school day-care and parent support groups provided by the Y Bont team of dedicated and highly trained staff,

and to be given the opportunity to deliver this important message to pupils here is a great privilege."

Clare said they need to raise over £300,000 every year to maintain these invaluable services and Y Bont are grateful to Rotary and all the other individuals and organisations who help to maintain this essential service in Bridgend.

To find more about Rotary contact [www.rotarybridgend.org.uk](http://www.rotarybridgend.org.uk) or the secretary of the Rotary Club of Bridgend on 01656 652181. DH

## Who wants to build what, and where?

Ms Clare Tuck – Garden of 7 Woodlands Avenue, Pencoed – New dwelling in garden of 67 Woodlands Avenue.

Rev Michael Komor – St David's Church, Wind Street, Laleston – Fell unsafe sycamore tree within Laleston Conservation Area.

Persimmon Homes West Wales – Land at Ty Draw Farm, Pyle – Approval of details for condition 2 of P/16/271/FUL – cycle parking scheme.

Mr M Short – Plot 179, Cae Hendre, Parc Derwen, Coity – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Lloyd Pike – 9 Evans Terrace, Caerau, Maesteg – Two storey addition to rear elevation.

Gareth Pearce – Plot 12, land at Abergarw Farm, Brynmenyn – Reserved matters for two storey detached dwelling.

Emma Draper – 14 Hawkhurst Court, Porthcawl – Single storey granny flat.

Mr Aaron Woodhall – 1 Dan Y Graig Avenue, Porthcawl – Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal alterations to convert from two flats into one dwelling.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – McDonalds Restaurant, Bridgend Retail Park, Picton Court, Bridgend – Install eight illuminated fascia signs.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – McDonalds Restaurant, Bridgend Retail Park, Picton Court, Bridgend – Alterations to elevations to include addition of extensions totalling 50 sqm, cladding to the roof, new drive-thru booths with new fast-forward booth with associated works.

Mr M Lewis – 77 Cowbridge Road, Bridgend – Approval of details for condition 2 of P/16/516/FUL.

Nicholas Hegarty – 32-34 London House, Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Proposed facade refurbishment.

Mrs and Mrs M Miah – Sahi, 35 The Esplanade, Porthcawl – Two projecting lights to illuminate existing signs.

Cowbridge Design – 89 Noltton Street, Bridgend – Conversion of house into flats.

Demolition of parts of the property and formation of a dormer window and flat roof to rear to allow adequate headroom and access.

Mrs Nikki Cashmore – Land adjoining entrance lane to Ynyslas Uchaf Farm, Blackmill Road, Blackmill, Bridgend – Various works to all 11 trees including coppicing, removing minor and major dead wood, crown reducing and removing ivy.

David Morris – 5 Swn-yr-Adar, Pen Y Fai – Garage conversion and garage extension.

Industrial Pipework (UK) Ltd – Unit 8, Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate, Nantyllyfyllon, Maesteg – Non-material amendment to P/16/309/FUL to remove condition 2 of the consent (remedial works to treat any area of shallow mine workings).

Hafod Housing – Former Carey Baptist Church, Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig – Non-material amendment to P/13/861/FUL – changes to landscaping and external works including changes to proposed boundary fences, change to roof finish and minor alterations to elevations.

Mr T Richards – Land at Bangor Terrace, Maesteg – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3 and 4 of P/14/157/FUL.

Michaela Jervis – 73 West Road, Bridgend – Rear elevation single storey extension. Front elevation extension over kitchen.

Mr Paul Steddy – 3 Penybryn Road, Brynmenyn – Non-material amendment to P/15/657/FUL – mirror the building and change roof shape.

## Grand banquet boosts civic charity by £400

**THE Bridgend County Civic Charity enjoyed a grand banquet at the Golden Well Oriental Restaurant on Sunday, September 18, when the secretary/co-ordinator of the Civic Charity committee, Mari Major, introduced Mr Chris Major as Master of Ceremonies, former head of Heronsbridge School and a strong supporter of the charity.**

He called on Anwen Angharad, the soloist, a student at University of Wales Trinity St David's College.

Anwen has been accepted to study for a semester at Long Beach University, California in 2017 and is looking for sponsorship. She entertained with Welsh and English items.

Chris introduced guest speaker Mr Simon Gwynne, partnership manager at Halo Life Centre, Bridgend. Simon studied for a BA degree in parks, recreation and leisure management at the University of Wales Cardiff. His lecturer was Dr Paul Thomas, chair of Sport Wales.

He took over the partnership manager's position at Bridgend contract in 2015. In his spare time he coaches ladies' rugby and played rugby himself for over 14 years.

He believes in "plenty of exercise for everybody" and made everyone stand and follow the easy exercises that everyone should do on a daily basis!

The Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, Coun Reg Jenkins thanked everyone for their attendance and interest in the evening, that will benefit the chosen charity by £400.

The next event is a youth concert on Wednesday, October 12 at Brynteg Comprehensive School hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend at 6.30pm, when local schools will entertain and Mrs Susan Davies, former headteacher of Llangwydd School, will comperè.

Proceeds from the event will be kept as a donation to the National Urd Eisteddfod 2017. Tickets: adults £6, children admitted free. Contact Mrs Mari Major, MBE (01656 651491) or Coun Marlene Thomas (01656 871439).

Go to the **Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news

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[www.porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://www.porthcawl-today.co.uk)



# 'THESE AWARDS ARE A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL!' 'Fantastic' team at Maesteg hospital win glowing praise for patient care



Trainee nurse practitioner Debbie Demmy with AMBU vice-chairman, Charles Janczewski.



Health visitor Shelley Morgan.

## Porthcawl hosting talks on industrial regeneration

**PORTHCAWL'S** Grand Pavilion this week hosts a major regeneration conference on how older industrial areas in Wales, England, Scotland are likely to be affected by the decision to leave the European Union.

The Industrial Communities Alliance (ICA) holds its annual conference at the Grand Pavilion today (September 29) followed by their annual meeting on Friday (September 30).

An all-party organisation which campaigns on behalf of authorities based in the industrial regions of the UK, the ICA brings together more than 60 local councils. Representatives will consider issues such as economic growth, infrastructure, the need for an industrial strategy and the future of the steel industry while discussing how organisations can work in partnership to overcome challenges, regenerate areas and

create fresh jobs and prosperity.

Speakers include Assembly cabinet secretary for economy and on infrastructure; Ken Skates AM, Bevan Foundation Director, Dr Victoria Winckler; Ogmere MP Chris Elmore and Labour leadership contender Pontypridd MP Owen Smith and Aberavon MP Stephen Kinnock.

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at CBC said: "The areas represented by the Industrial Communities Alliance are among the most deprived in the country, and the organisation does sterling work in campaigning on behalf of councils throughout the industrial regions."

"As many of these areas have previously benefited from European funding, there will be lots to consider in the wake of the recent EU referendum result, including how we can work together to jointly meet the challenges of the future," he added.



ABOVE (left to right): Community nurses Faye Protheroe, Jade Dunsford, Stacey McFarlane, and Stephanie Power.

## Hospital's award for taking the fear out of operations...



Staff nurse Rose Edwards, Paul Harris and consultant anaesthetist Shakeel Moideen, part of the SPA - Soothing Patient Anxiety team making each patient's hospital visit a pleasant one.

**A GROUNDBREAKING initiative, that helps take the fear out of the operating theatre for Princess of Wales Hospital patients with learning disabilities, has won a prestigious NHS Wales Award.**

The Soothing Patient Anxiety (SPA) approach claimed the Citizens at the Centre of Service Re-Design and Delivery Award at a ceremony held in Cardiff.

The project sees operating department practitioner Paul Harris and his team going to extraordinary lengths to make sure patients feel at ease ahead of surgical treatment.

This could mean playing a favourite film or music to a patient as they go to sleep or using an array of props ranging from disco lights to remote controlled toys to help relax them.

Hospital director Jamie Marchant said he was delighted the judging panel had recognised the team: "The title of the

category is typified by the approach the team takes to provide a patient-centred service and enhance the patient experience."

"Their hospital colleagues and I are very proud. The team will be delighted to have been recognised – although I know they have been already rewarded by the praise and gratitude of patients and family members who have accessed this new service."

Cabinet Secretary for health, Vaughan Gething, who attended the ceremony, said: "The winners and nominees have made changes to improve the services they provide – but I know that across the NHS, other organisations will be taking notice of what they have achieved and seeing how they too can make improvements."

"These awards allow us to celebrate fantastic care and dedicated NHS staff and their partners, making a real difference for citizens across Wales every

day. I want to congratulate everyone for their commitment to improving quality in our NHS."

Another ABMU project which has seen the creation of a dedicated multidisciplinary team at Singleton Hospital to increase research activity in the Woman and Child Health Directorate was shortlisted in the Promoting Clinical Research and Application to Practice category.

ABMU Chairman Andrew Davies said: "I am delighted that once again our staff have impressed the judging panel with their passion and commitment to improving care for patients."

"It is a great demonstration of our staff putting our values into practice and testimony to the hard work being carried out every day by colleagues."

The annual NHS Wales Awards, launched in 2008, celebrate the work of organisations and teams across Wales in delivering excellent care.

THE entire team at Maesteg Community Hospital are basking in praise, after winning plaudits for patient care in ABMU's latest Patient Choice Awards.

The grateful daughter of an elderly patient nominated everyone at the hospital and said she couldn't have wished for better treatment for her late mother.

Janette Duggan, of Nantyllyllon, said the whole team were fantastic: "The care that she received was above and beyond – from the cleaners up to the sister and everyone in between."

She said her mum, who suffered a stroke followed by pneumonia, sadly died at the hospital, but added: "I could not have wished for her to be anywhere else than in Maesteg."

"They showed compassion, empathy, respect and they looked after the family. They work tirelessly and are always smiling. If I ever need looking after when I'm old, I hope I'm lucky enough to go to Maesteg Hospital."

Primary and Community Care Director of Nursing, Vicky Warner, who hosted the awards, said:

"In these circumstances we couldn't get this patient home. When we can't, making sure it is as if you are at home is the best we can do."

"I would also like to pay tribute to the team for their work here. This award goes to absolutely everybody."

It was the first time the awards, which give patients, carers and relatives a chance to say thanks to health board staff, have been held at Maesteg and saw a range of staff working around the community honoured.

**'Guardian angel'**

AMONG them was trainee nurse practitioner with the Bridgend Community Resource Team Debbie Denny, who was described by one family as their own guardian angel.

Nominating Debbie, the daughter of a patient she referred to hospital, wrote: "Myself and my mum don't have words to do justice to your amazing selfless act of kindness, we are both eternally grateful for the day you walked into our lives."

"You truly deserve to

be recognised professionally for what you have done."

**'Wonderful care'** COMMUNITY nurses Faye Protheroe, Jade Dunsford, Stacey McFarlane and Stephanie Power were selected following positive feedback received from Pam Graham, of Bridgend.

The team looked after her husband Lyn after an operation in June and after their regular visits, he was successful discharged.

"This was due to the wonderful care he has received from the district nurse. Their friendliness, hygiene procedures and professionalism has been second to none – all the nurses have been fantastic," she said.

**'Guiding hand'**

HEALTH visitor Shelley Morgan, who covers the North Cornelly area, was nominated by foster parents who said she was always on hand to provide guidance and support.

"Health visitors do not always get the praise they deserve and that's why we wanted to praise Shelley for all her hard work," they wrote in their tribute.

**'Fantastic job'** SISTER Sheryl Kelly was nominated by social worker Ceri Evans who works alongside the district nurses in the Neath Community Team.

Ceri spoke on behalf of the wife of a patient Sheryl and her team cared for as he reached the end of his life.

His grateful widow appreciated the way Sheryl helped the family.

"She praised Sheryl's sensitivity in dealing with the situation in such a caring way and being able to follow his wishes that he could die at home with his wife at his side."

Ceri added: "I think it is very important to recognise and thank frontline staff for the fantastic job that is done day in, day out and dealing with the most difficult situations."

ABMU Vice-Chairman Charles Janczewski, who presented the awards, told staff: "These awards are a little bit special. They tell us what a good job you are doing for our patients every day. This is all about the care you give to people who are anxious or worried, when you step in and alleviate those fears."

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# Rail enthusiast's videos pass the one million mark on YouTube

**RAILWAY enthusiast Mike Wilcock, who lives in Llanblethian, has passed an astonishing mark on YouTube – achieving over one million hits for his uploaded films.**

In fact his number one video has notched up 176,523 views alone from people around the globe (see link at the end of the article).

Mike's YouTube channel can be found by putting in 'TheMichaelWilcock'. His son Nicholas was instrumental in the venture, showing Mike how to process films with the popular video platform.

He explained: "I started the channel five years ago, and at the time I'd be getting around 200 to 300 hits a month. Now I'm getting around 10,000 to 15,000 a month!"

Mike, a former manager with C&A, started making films in 1986, and has a bank of 800 hours of railway films yet to upload.

He currently has 445 videos on YouTube, and uploads two or three new clips every week.

Before his YouTube days, he helped to make

by GEM REPORTER



Mike Wilcock.

railway DVDs for a company called 'Locomaster Profiles'.

Around 80 per cent of his YouTube videos are filmed in south Wales, and the other 20 per cent are special events, like seeing the Flying Scotsman unveiled in York, and Mike getting the chance to drive a steam engine, The Tornado, on the West Somerset Railway.

The videos last sometimes for three or four minutes, at other times 14 or 15 minutes, and draw lots of appreciative comments.

Mike has developed excellent relationships with locomotive and

railway companies which means he has been given 'special access'.

Over a period of 18 years Mike has witnessed the importation of 450 freight locomotives from Canada at Newport docks.

"I send the film to YouTube in Los Angeles and they then upload it and subscribers and enthusiasts are sent an email to let them know."

There are lots of railway enthusiasts in the UK, but Mike was taken aback by another source of viewers.

"I was surprised by the response from India and Bangladesh – there are lots of enthusiasts there."

He emphasised that the old days of trainspotters in anoraks with notebooks is over and that 'railway enthusiasts' have modernised their love of locomotives, steam engines and railways with high definition films taken with top quality video cameras and mobile phones.

The films are tightly edited and there are often explanatory titles on screen.

His latest clip was taken at Tamworth Rail Depot when the chairman of GBRf unveiled the class 66 locomotive 'Maritime One'.

(youtu.be/SWovqd99-A). Within a week, a total of 786 people have watched part one and two of the event on YouTube.

His first brush with fame was when he took a railway trip that ended up in the Guinness Book of Records.

"On October 3 and 4 in 1984, I covered 1,387 miles on the railway network in 23 hours, 50 minutes. At the time I worked for C&A and we raised over £50,000 for the NSPCC."

The link to Mike's most popular clip shows the aftermath of a train collision in Lawrence Hill, Bristol, in which the driver was lucky to escape with just a broken arm:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUBXuOWsWQY.

Mike's YouTube hit figure currently stands at 1,018,220.

## USE YOUR WELSH AROUND BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH!

### Defnyddiwch eich Cymraeg ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr!

MAE Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran defnyddio'r iaith mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd. Dyma beth sy'n digwydd gyda ni nawr bod y plant nôl yn yr ysgol:

Digwyddiadau wythnosol

Dydd Llun: bore coffi Porthcawl i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, YMCA Porthcawl, 11-12yp.

Clwb Gwyddoniaeth i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim.

Clwb Ieuencid (Bl 7-8), YGG Llangynwyd, amser cinio, am ddim.

Clwb Celf a Chrefft i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, 3:30pm - 4:30pm, £1.50 y sesiwn.

Clwb ar ôl Ysgol, YGG Llangynwyd, 3:30pm-5pm.

Dydd Mawrth: bore coffi Pen-y-bont i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, Caffi Tŷ Coffi Pen-y-bont, 10-11yb.

Clwb Animeiddio i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, amser cinio, am ddim.

Dydd Mercher: Clwb Gwersi DJ, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio.

Clwb Ieuencid, YMCA Pen-y-bont, 6 - 8yb, £1.50 y sesiwn.

Dydd Iau: Clwb Short a Sbrî i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, 3:30pm - 4:30pm, £1.50 y sesiwn.

Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Pen-y-bont, Cyfle i ddysgwyr holi cwestiynau, ymarfer a gloywi eu Cymraeg, ynghyd â dysgwyr o'r un lefel. Pob Dydd Iau Grŵp 1: 1pm - 2pm. Grŵp 2: 2pm-3pm.

Dydd Gwener: Clwb Ieuencid (Bl. 9,10,11), YGG Llangynwyd, amser cinio, am ddim.

Digwyddiadau eraill

Clwb Bili Broga 30.09.16, 1-2.30yp, Parc Gwledig Brynagarw.

Dewch am Hwyl a Sbrî ar daith o gwmpas Parc Gwledig Brynagarw gyda'ch

plant. Bydd cyfle i gerdded o gwmpas y parc, ac mae pob croeso i chi ddod â'r bygi. Byddwn ni'n gorffen y daith gyda gweithgaredd yn y ganolfan a chyfle i ganu a dawnsio i ganeuon Cymraeg. Bydd y clwb yma'n cael ei gynnal yn fisol a bydd angen i bawb wrdded ar bwys y caffi. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

Mae Pwyllgor Apêl Llansanffraid ar Ogwr, Ynysawdre a Thondu yn trefnu Cynghedd yng nghwmni Cantorion Coety ar nos Wener 7fed o Hydref yn Neuadd Goffa Bryncethin am 7yh.

Tocynnau yn £5 yr un, a bydd yr holl arian yn mynd tuag at Eisteddfod yr Urd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Taf ac Elai 2017.

Os hoffech chi brynu tocyn, cysylltwch ag Amanda Evans; menter@broogwr.org, 07774 032624 neu ewch i Siop yr Hen Bont.

Edrychaf ymlaen at eich croesawu chi ar y noson. Am ragor o fanylion cysylltwch â ni! Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200; menter@broogwr.org; 07774 032624. Dilymch ni ar Facebook a Twitter am y newyddion diweddaraf.

Facebook: menterbroogwr Twitter: @menterbroogwr.

Gallwch hefyd danyssgrifio i dderbyn ein e-chlysur trwy lenwi'r ffurflen ar ein gwefan: www.menterbroogwr.org.

### Use your Welsh around Bridgend county!

MENTER Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language in Bridgend county.

Our intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language in the county by increasing the opportunities for residents to use Welsh in a variety of fields.

This is what's going on now that the children are back in school.

Weekly events

Monday: Porthcawl coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, YMCA Porthcawl, 11am - 12pm.

Science club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free.

Youth club (years 7-8), YGG Llangynwyd, lunchtime, free.

Arts and crafts club for Ysgol Gynradd

Gymraeg Bro Ogwr pupils, 3:30pm - 4:30pm, £1.50 a session.

Clwb ar ôl Ysgol, YGG Llangynwyd, 3:30pm - 5pm.

Tuesday: Bridgend coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, Tŷ Coffi Bridgend, 10am - 11am.

Animation club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw pupils, lunchtime, free.

Wednesday: DJ lessons club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime.

Youth club, Bridgend YMCA, 6pm - 8pm, £1.50 a session.

Thursday: clwb Short a Sbrî, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, 3:30pm - 4:30pm, £1.50 a session.

Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Bridgend. A chance for Welsh learners to ask questions and practice their Welsh with other learners. Every Thursday, Group 1: 1pm-2pm. Group 2: 2pm - 3pm.

Friday: youth club (years 9, 10, 11), YGG Llangynwyd, lunchtime, free.

Other events: Clwb Bili Broga, September 30, 1pm - 2.30pm, Brynagarw Country Park.

Come and enjoy a walk around Brynagarw Country Park with your children. You are welcome to bring the buggies! We will finish the walk with an activity in the centre and a chance to sing and dance to Welsh songs.

This club is going to be conducted on a monthly basis and everyone will need to meet at the cafe. A warm welcome to all!

The Llansanffraid, St Brides Minor, Ynysawdre and Tondu Appeals committee has organised a concert in the company of Cantorion Coety on Friday, October 7 at Bryncethin Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Tickets £5, and all money collected will go towards the Bridgend, Taff and Ely Urd Eisteddfod 2017. Tickets from Amanda Evans menter@broogwr.org, 07774 032624 or visit Siop yr Hen Bont.

For more information contact Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200, menter@broogwr.org; 07774 032624. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for all the latest news: Facebook: menterbroogwr, Twitter: @menterbroogwr.

## Men burgled home of elderly couple while they slept upstairs

**AN elderly couple's home was broken into by a pair of burglars as they lay asleep in bed, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.**

Shortly before, the two men had failed to burgle a nearby pub.

Ashley Blower (39) of Dyffryn Road, Caerau, Maesteg, and Damien Evans (31) of Victoria Street, Caerau, admitted burgling the couple's home in Aberkenfig, stealing property and attempting to enter the Swan Inn, Aberkenfig.

Blower was jailed for a total of 42 months, and Evans received three years and four months.

Blower had been in breach of an eight-month suspended sentence.

Prosecutor Ian Kolvin said the pair made a "determined effort" to break into the

Swan Inn.

"But they failed and turned their attention to the couple's home."

They broke down a wooden door using considerable force.

At the time, the occupiers were fast asleep. Mr Kolvin said they stole £150 in cash and two Post Office pension cards, and left without disturbing the couple.

The pair were identified from CCTV footage.

In a victim impact statement, the elderly man said they had been extremely upset and his wife had become nervous. The pair, he said, had caused damage of £1,105.

He said the burglary was "beyond their comprehension".

Blower was said to have convictions for 55 offences including 11 burglaries, and Evans for 75 offences, including nine burglaries.

David Sedgewick, for Blower, said: "They

accept they were foolish. For some time, he has fought a drug addiction. He realises he will go to prison. He can't explain why he was at the scene."

Robert Chudleigh, for Evans, said: "Since the age of 16, his life has been dominated by

drugs. But he, too, cannot explain why they were there. He recognises his family will suffer by him losing his liberty."

Judge Eleri Rees said: "Clearly, this was planned. They had tools and a vehicle.

"Two elderly people

who were in their beds were shocked and distressed to find they had been burgled. It has affected their confidence and ability to sleep at night."

Blower's vehicle and tools were ordered to be forfeited.

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# Porthcawl welcomes the fans of 'The King' for a weekend celebrating the life of Elvis

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Telephone 07791 228684  
[www.ffotoimage.co.uk](http://www.ffotoimage.co.uk)

**PORThCAWL** has found a perfect niche and the town celebrated its 13th year, hosting Elvis fans from far and wide.

The festival weekend, which gives the town's hotels, guest houses, restaurants and pubs a real late-season boost, did not enjoy great weather, but there was plenty of entertainment inside, as venues around the town showcased various Elvis Tribute Artists.

Many of the 'ETAs' in these photos were performing in the main competitions, held once again in the Grand Pavilion.

(See page 9 for more of Glyn Evans' photos).



ABOVE and BELOW:  
There were rhinestones everywhere!



ABOVE: Bearded Elvis!



# PORTHCAWL AUTHOR PENS HIS FIRST MURDER MYSTERY

**P O R T H C A W L** author **Anthony Hontoir** has recently published his ninth book, a whodunit crime novel entitled *The Tidal Road Mystery*, which introduces a new amateur sleuth in the shape of **Erwin Graham**.

Graham is a one-time Fleet Street crime reporter who succumbed to a nervous breakdown and became a tramp before seeking salvation in Totnes, Devon, where the well-known counter-culture of a strong artistic community brought out his talent for painting.

Quite by chance, he becomes involved in a murder investigation in the fictitious Devon village of Watersford (based on Aveton Gifford) where he is now living in a dilapidated bungalow with Belle, his gypsy partner.

The book marks a dramatic change of direction for Anthony Hontoir, who is better known in his home town of Porthcawl as the producer of a series of local history films, which he has been making for the past two

decades. He said: "As a matter of fact, I started out in writing, beginning with short stories when I was eight years old, and I wrote my first book when I was 10.

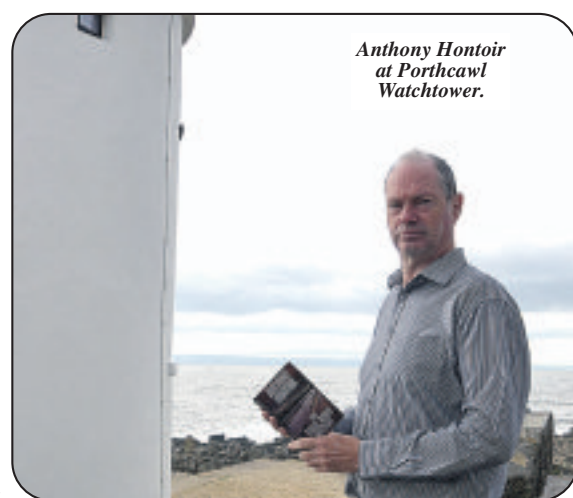
"It was an adventure story meant for children of my own age, and I sent it to the publishers, William Collins, but it was returned, perhaps not surprisingly.

"However, I was determined not to be put off, and wrote several more in the years that followed, but they kept coming back with very polite but encouraging rejection letters".

"By my late teens, it culminated in the writing of *Free and Easy*, a novel set in a 1970s comprehensive school, which proved equally unsuccessful at the time, so my thoughts turned to becoming either a cameraman or a journalist.

"The latter won the day, and for the next nine years I was a freelance journalist specialising in DIY woodwork, which led to the writing of seven woodwork books.

"After this episode in my career, I set up my own film company, 'Downwood Film



Anthony Hontoir at Porthcawl Watchtower.

Productions', and ever since the late 1980s, I have been making films".

He revisited *Free and Easy*, reworked it and it was published in 2008. This led Mr Hontoir to consider a return to writing rather than operating a movie camera.

He continued: "At the moment I am doing both, and film-making still forms a big part of my life, but two years ago my family and I had a week's holiday in Devon, staying in a

small cottage in Aveton Gifford, and I became fascinated with its tidal road.

"The plot formed in my mind, and I wrote most of it on my return home, although I got a bit stuck on the ending and only completed it in May of this year. The ebook version was published on Amazon at the end of June, and the paperback came out in September."

*The Tidal Road Mystery* is intended to be the first in a series of whodunits in which

Erwin Graham is the detective, and Anthony has already worked out plots for two further books and has started writing them.

The official book launch will take place at SUSSUED in James Street, Porthcawl, on Friday, October 21, at 8pm; and a 'meet the author' event is scheduled at Porthcawl Library for Wednesday, November 23, at 2pm.

Paperback copies of the book are already on sale at £6.99 each at the SUSSUED shop, as well as at Nottage Stores in Nottage village and Cornelly Hardware, Hall Drive, North Cornelly. Copies can be obtained directly from Anthony Hontoir who may be contacted on 01656 771775 or 07510 934299. For readers who prefer the electronic version, the ebook is available on Amazon at £1.99.

Report and photograph by Keith E Morgan.

## Ford, Remploy, the boundary proposals and telephone scams, are all on the agenda

**S**INCE my last column, a lot has gone on in Ogmores constituency: it was welcome to have time back in the constituency and away from Parliament during the summer recess.

Arguably the biggest news has been surrounding the announcement from Ford Bridgend: a vital employer in the area, the announcement of a reduction in investment is a real concern. I have already spoken with Ford and in the process of setting up meetings with the Unite union.

In a joint statement with my colleague, Assembly Member Huw Irranca-Davies we stated: "We're deeply concerned about this announcement and will be keeping a close eye on the situation. We will be working with the Welsh Government Economy Minister Ken Skates, Unite union, as well as arranging a meeting with Ford. Our main priority is protecting the workforce at the Bridgend plant."

Away from Ford, I have been kept busy around the constituency and I've been pleased to visit Remploy in Bridgend. The disability charity are keen to reduce the number of disabled people who are currently unemployed.

Remploy has a rich and proud history of helping those with disabilities and despite the closure of their



by CHRIS ELMORE, MP for Ogmores

I've recently spoken in the chamber about scamming. Scamming in the UK has an average financial detriment per person of more than £1,000, but some victims have been forced to re-mortgage or even sell their homes to cover the cost.

I would like to draw attention to the issue in Wales. From April 2015 to May 2016, 8,774 instances of fraud were reported in Wales, but it is estimated that only five per cent of scamming victims report being scammed to authorities, so the reality is far worse.

I would like briefly to highlight one scam that a number of constituents have raised: Residents have been targeted with an automated voicemail message claiming to be from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and warning of an impending lawsuit.

After being asked to press 1, to speak to a caseworker, a person then asks for certain personal details such as national insurance numbers, which are then used to commit fraud.

Claiming to be from HMRC is a common tactic used by criminals and, unfortunately, it is often successful. I have had constituents contacting my office in tears, ashamed to have been caught out and unclear as to where to go to report what has happened to them.

My advice to constituents is very clear: the HMRC do not contact you by telephone unless you ask them to. If you're in any doubt, always ask them to write to you with information.

I have also been pleased to join and support the competition for Kellogg's Breakfast Club. Numerous studies show that breakfast is the most important meal when growing up (and indeed when grown up!) and I'm pleased Kellogg's are promoting clubs and rewarding the clubs.

I've written to all primary schools in the area to join the competition, which celebrates the teachers and parents who run the clubs. The winners of the competition will receive £2,000 with four runners up receiving £1,500.

I'll be around the constituency throughout October. If you have any issues, visit [www.chriselmore.co.uk](http://www.chriselmore.co.uk) to find out when my next advice surgeries are, or for my contact details.

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## More help for people with mental health issues as charity receives grant

**PEOPLE** battling mental health problems, and their families, will continue to receive support from local charity **Mental Health Matters Wales (MHMW)**, thanks to a grant of almost £50,000 over two years from **Lloyds Bank Foundation**.

It will go towards the work of a part-time advocacy support worker to help those moving on from mental health care, and their families, to adjust to their new circumstances.

With the grant, the

charity can operate a self-referral system that would ensure that those they work with can access the additional services and receive support to help promote their recovery and manage their own health and wellbeing.

CEO of MHMW, Richard Jones, said: "The support from Lloyds Bank Foundation will have a direct impact on people living in the Bridgend borough."

"With the grant, we can continue to deliver high quality services and engage at a grass roots level, to further support Bridgend communities."



# Rhinestones, wigs and vintage outfits – all on the streets as the Elvis Festival returns

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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ELVIS fans made a beeline for Porthcawl last weekend, and there were plenty of satisfied customers.

Chris Smart, the vice-chairman of the Bridgend Tourism Association said "The 13th annual Porthcawl Elvis Festival was an outstanding success and once again brought thousands of people into the town."

"There appeared to be very few problems and the hotels and public houses which threw themselves into the spirit of the event are to be congratulated."

"Businesses particularly cafes and restaurants had a splendid weekend with trade reaching a peak on Saturday. There was hardly a spare place in any of the car parks throughout Saturday and Sunday."

"The organisers of the festival have to be congratulated on staging yet another marvellous event. Long may it continue."

"And praise too for the police who were out in force ensuring that everyone could enjoy themselves in a safe environment. They did a splendid job."

On local social media, those praising the weekend vastly outnumbered those who had reservations.

PHILIP IRWIN



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Our exceptional range of activities beyond the classroom are central to life at the school; each year boasts a great repertoire of musical and drama performances, visits and activities.

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# Swci Delic yn creu celf gofiadwy i gefnogi Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae

**BYDD Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae eleni yn siŵr o ddal eich llygaid.**

Mae'r artist Swci Delic, un o bencampwyr yr ymgyrch, wedi creu celf arbennig i dynnu sylw at yr achlysur a gynhelir ar ddydd Sadwrn 15 Hydref. Mae Swci yn adnabyddus am ei chelf liwgar, gofiadwy ac yn arbenigo mewn creu cynfasau enfawr.

Bydd y darn, sy'n dilyn steil unigryw, celf 'bop' Swci, yn nodwedd amlwg o ymgyrch Shwmae Su'mae 2016. Bydd cyfle i'r rhai sy'n mynychu un o'r cannoedd o ddiwyddiadau ar draws y wlad dderbyn y dyluniad trawiadol ar gerdyn post. Nifer cyfyngedig caiff eu hargraffu, ac fe'u dosbarthir ar sail gyntaf i'r felin. Bydd cyfle i bawb fwynhau'r gwaith ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol, anogir y cyhoedd i'w rannu'n eang i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r dydd.

Meddai Swci: "Mae'n anrhydedd bod yn bencampwyr Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae gan fod yr iaith Gymraeg yn hynod bwysig i mi. Pan gefais y gwahoddiad, penderfynais ddangos fy nghefnogaeth trwy wneud be fi'n hoffi gwneud fwyaf, peintio. Roeddwn eisiau atgoffa



pobl mewn ffordd gofiadwy. "Rwy'n gobeithio bydd y darlun yn tynnu sylw, ysgogi pobl i ddarganfod mwy am y dydd a chymryd rhan. "Rwy'n hoffi'r ffaith fod Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae yn gyfle i bawb goffio'r iaith Gymraeg trwy ddod at ei gilydd i ddatlu a chael hwy. Mae'r dydd yn agored i bawb; dysgwyr, pobl ddi-gymraeg neu'n rhugl, does dim ots. Mae'n bosib i bawb geisio cyfarch ei gilydd yn Gymraeg a sbarduno eraill wrth wneud."

**Swci Delic's striking art gets Shwmae Su'mae Day noticed**  
**SHWMAE Su'mae day on Saturday, October 15 will not go unnoticed as a psychedelic piece of art has been created to mark the occasion.**

Artist and Shwmae Su'mae champion, Swci Delic, set about creating a special piece that is certain to grab attention using her trademark mix of vibrant colours and patterns.

Swci's eye catching artwork will be a key feature of this year's Shwmae Su'mae campaign. A limited number of postcards featuring the special design will be available at numerous events across the country on October 15. It will also be shared widely on social media.

Swci said: "I was thrilled to be invited to champion Shwmae Su'mae Day. I decided I would show my support and help spread the word by doing what I love to do – paint. I wanted to create a memorable reminder that would make people smile."

"The Welsh language is so important to me. Being a part of this campaign is exciting as it is about celebrating, together. It doesn't matter if you are fluent, a learner or don't speak Welsh at all – anyone can try a Shwmae or Su'mae."

"Greeting each other in Welsh is a small gesture, but, if we all do it every day, everywhere we go it has the potential to have a huge impact."

To find out what's on in your area on Shwmae Su'mae Day or for tips on planning your own event, go to [www.shwmae.cymru](http://www.shwmae.cymru).

# HEOL-Y-CYW BLAZE CAUSES CONCERN

**THE fire at the South Wales Wood Recycling centre near Heol-y-Cyw is causing a great deal of concern among residents, who feel under-informed about such an incident on their doorstep, and what the authorities are doing to tackle the situation.**

As the secretary of the Heol-y-Cyw Workmen's Club and a Pencoed town councillor, I have written to both Natural Resources Wales, the lead body investigating the cause of the fire, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to express my concerns on behalf of residents in Heol-y-Cyw and Pencoed and to request an urgent update.

Even before the fire, residents were concerned about the

number, frequency and speed of the lorries travelling through the village and are now apprehensive about the potential for the fire to spread and the environmental and health effects of the fumes and wood dust which are engulfing the villages.

As this is the third fire experienced by South Wales Wood Recycling in the last 12 months, I will now be campaigning for the relocation of the plant away from the village of Heol-y-Cyw and for more robust health and environmental safeguards to be put in place in relation to this industry.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service for their ongoing work in tackling the blaze and in investigating the cause of the fire.

ALEX WILLIAMS

## 'Take Five' to help prevent financial fraud

**SOUTH Wales Police are supporting the launch of a major new campaign designed to tackle financial fraud.**

The campaign – Take Five – aims to put consumers and businesses in control with straightforward advice to help prevent financial fraud, and encourage people to take a moment to 'stop and think'.

Take Five is the first national campaign to be backed by all the major banks and other financial service providers across the UK.

Lending their support to Take Five, South Wales Police Detective Inspector Paul Giess said: "Financial fraud can affect anyone and incidents are on the increase. That's why the Take Five campaign is so important and we're proud to support it."

"We urge everyone to take a moment and help take back control. If you get any calls, texts or emails out of the blue asking for your personal or financial details always stop and think."

Katy Worobec, director of Financial Fraud Action UK who created the campaign, said: "The industry is already taking action on fraud, last year our members stopped £7 in every £10 of fraud taking place. However, we know that criminals are getting increasingly sophisticated in their tactics and that's why we are launching Take Five. We want everyone to take a moment to pause and think to help stop fraud."

Everyone can help protect themselves from financial fraud by remembering some simple advice:

- Never disclose

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# Rhodrey doesn't let a little thing like a missing leg hold him back!

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are hoping that the success of local Paralympian, Aled Davies, will help find a golden home for one of their own talented paralympian pups!

Five-year-old terrier crossbreed, Rhodrey, has never let a missing leg hold him back and enjoys endless games of fetch and run after tennis balls.

The terrier tearaway has been through a lot already; he sadly lost his leg after being shot in a hunting accident. Despite his ordeal, he is a happy, energetic dog, hoping to find an active home with owners who will enjoy keeping this fitness fanatic entertained.

Rhianon Chamberlain, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer, explained: "Rhodrey is such a great character and his boundless enthusiasm for life has made him a firm favourite with staff and volunteers at the centre."

"Some people will overlook any dogs that have any slight health problem, but Rhodrey's lively, affectionate



Rhodrey (above) is looking for a home.

personality means that many people don't notice his missing leg. He certainly hasn't noticed and never lets it slow him down."

However, she added: "This spirited terrier struggles in new situations and will be best suited to an adult-only home and an owner with the experience and patience to invest time in him to form good attachments."

If you would like to give Rhodrey a home, or are interested in rehoming another rescue dog, call the Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292, or visit at Court Colman, Pen-Y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG.

## CRC team hosts Evolving Communities workshop

CREATIVE Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative, are inviting people to come forward with innovative ideas that have the potential to take communities and enterprises in the rural Vale in new, exciting directions.

Under the theme 'Evolving Communities', the CRC team now aims to support residents in the rural Vale (excluding Barry, Penarth and Llandough) to map out their community's needs and trial new ways of meeting these.

To help stimulate ideas, the team is organising a workshop on Wednesday, October 19 from 9.30am to 3.30pm at St Athan Community Centre with lunch provided. Everyone in the rural Vale who is involved with community groups, voluntary organisations, service providers or individuals active in their local community is

welcome.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "The CRC team has a great track record of working with local communities to develop innovative projects that create long-term social and economic benefits for the rural Vale."

"This new initiative offers yet another opportunity for communities to identify their own priorities and work with us to explore new ways of delivering services."

If you would like to attend, contact the CRC team on 01446 704226, or create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk to book your place. For more, visit www.CreativeRuralCommunities.co.uk.

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Welsh Government, and by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

## MARIA'S CAREER IS IN TOP GEAR!

RIGHT: Apprentice of the year finalist, Maria Brooks.



MARIA BROOKS has become the first female adult apprentice taken on at Ford's Bridgend plant, thanks to the Welsh Government's apprenticeship programme.

Working on the production line at Ford gave Maria (28), from Porthcawl, an interest about how engines were built, operated and controlled. Already an honours graduate in forensic chemistry, her four-year apprenticeship, provided by Bridgend College, will gain her a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in electrical engineering from the University of South Wales.

As a reward for her success, she has been shortlisted for the Apprentice of the Year award at this year's Apprenticeship Awards Cymru, which take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on October 20.

Maria said: "I have had the great fortune to work on a variety of projects during my time with the company. These have included relocating a robot to enable it to be trained in-house, and setting up an electro-pneumatic rig to support other electrical apprentices. This was a big project for me as it was one I could take the lead on."

**Miniaturist group display**  
THE Mid Glamorgan Dolls' House and Miniaturist group will support Noah's Ark Children's Hospital charity with their annual Dolls' House exhibition.

This will take place on October 8 from 10am - 4.30pm at the Town Hall in Cowbridge.

Entry £1 adults, children over five, 50p. Displays, sales tables and light refreshments.

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## New website will help young hone skills for work

A NEW website to help young people develop skills for work has been launched by not-for-profit company, Welsh Water, in the presence of Welsh Government

cabinet secretary for education, Kirsty Williams AM, teachers and pupils at Cardiff and Vale College.

The website developed in partnership by Welsh

Water's education team and a teacher seconded from Cardiff and Vale College, focuses on helping young people develop skills which businesses need.

It also helps showcase Welsh Water's campaigns and career options available in the water industry.

It forms part of the Welsh Baccalaureate is delivered by schools, colleges and training providers across Wales.

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# EXPERTS' CONCERN AT FIRST SIGHTING OF 'ASIAN HORNET' IN UNITED KINGDOM



**PEST experts are urging residents in the Vale and Bridgend to be vigilant following the first sighting of an Asian hornet in the UK.**

The invasive species that preys on honey bees was spotted in Gloucestershire earlier this week and attempts are under way to find and destroy its nests.

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) says confirmed sightings in both the Channel Islands and now mainland Britain mean that many more are likely to be found and the national trade body are calling on people who discover them to act responsibly.

The hornet, said to pose a very real threat to native species of bees, is already common across Europe and officials anticipating its arrival in this country for several years have set up a protocol designed to eradicate them.

Simon Forrester, chief executive of the BPCA, said: "Professional pest controllers have been aware of the threat posed by Asian hornets, alongside other invasive species, for some time.

"The BPCA and its members form the first alert to these threats and are often called in to deal with such pests.

"The first sighting will almost certainly not be the last, but if people

report them sensibly then major problems can be avoided.

"Our members will do everything they can to maintain the health of our honey bee population and can be called upon to deal sensitively with any situation that arises."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has set up a three-mile surveillance zone and a 'species alert' has been issued.

Nicola Spence, Defra's deputy director for plant and bee health, said: "We have been anticipating the arrival of the Asian hornet for some years and have a well-established protocol in place to eradicate them and control any potential spread.

"It's important to remember they pose no greater risk to human health than a bee, though we recognise the damage they can cause to honeybee colonies. That's why we are taking swift and robust action to identify and

destroy any nests."

The distinctive hornet, smaller than the native species, is most likely to be found in southern parts of England, but could also be accidentally imported among goods such as soil with pot plants, cut flowers, fruit and timber.

Its active months are between April and November, though it is inactive over winter.

Sightings should be sent with a photograph and local details to [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk).

## What does it look like?

**DISTINCTIVE hornet, smaller than our native European Hornet species. A key feature is the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the fourth segment, which is yellow.**

Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark); Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornets are more orange); workers can be up to 25mm in length.

## AM hears about community hub for veterans plan



Jane Hutt with Russ Kiteley and Noel Godfrey.

**THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, and the First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, attended Dame Eileen Younghusband's moving funeral last week.**

She met Barry veteran Russ Kiteley from Group 617, who related plans to develop a 'community hub' for service veterans.

She had a further meeting with Russ Kiteley and Noel Godfrey later to hear more about the needs of veterans and Armed Forces Covenant meetings at the Vale Council.



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## MATES IN CONCERT AT ST DONATS 'LABEL Mates' Boo Hewerdine and Dan Whitehouse will be in concert at St Donats Art Centre today (Friday, September 30) at 7.30pm.

Bob Hewerdine is a songwriter/performer whose album 'Open' received five star reviews.

Dan Whitehouse signed to Reveal Records in 2015 and started work on his new soulful album 'That's Where I Belong', released earlier this month.

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## 16 a 17 Medi Sinema Traeth Tiroedd Coll (Digwyddiad mynediad trwy docyn)

Caiff y digwyddiad unigryw hwn ei gynnal o fewn lleoliad ysbennedd muriau'r ardd, gyda chynhyrchiad gwyb ar sgrin sinema chwyddadwy fawr, sain theatr, bar coctels â thema, gwerthwyr bwyd a cherdoriaeth fyw cyn bod yr haul yn machlud. O 6pm tan 11pm, bydd y ffi lm yn dechrau tua 9pm (Machlud Haul).

## 8 Hydref - Gwyl Slow Food™ (Digwyddiad agored)

Dewch i Flasu, Dysgu, Bwyta, Gwyllo, Archwilio, Rhannu, Siopa, Gwrandio, Yfed, Mwynhau, Clywed, Arogl, Cyfarfod a chael hwyl yn gwirioni ar fwyd! Mwynhewch Wyl gyda chynhyrhwyr bwyd a diod creffus, sgysiaau am fwyd, arddangosiadau coginio, bwyta dros dro a mwyl. Slow Food - yn dod â phobl a bwyd da ynghyd! 10am - 4pm.

## 15 Hydref Gwyl Bwyd a Diod yr Ardd Hydrefol (Digwyddiad mynediad trwy docyn)

Antur Hydrefol i'r synhwyrau yn arddangos cynhyrchwyr bwyd a diod annibynnol lleol ar raddfa fach, cerddorion a chelf byw lleol o fewn muriau gerddi hanesyddol gwefreiddiol Dwnrhefn. O 12pm tan 9pm.

*Mae'r holl ddigwyddiadau yn cael eu cynnal ym Mae Dwnrhefn, Southerndown, Bro Morgannwg.*

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y sesiwn peilot dros dro ac i bryn tocyndau ar gyfer unrhyw un o'r digwyddiadau, ewch i [valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale#popupvale](http://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale#popupvale)

\* nodir y gallai digwyddiadau gael eu canslo ar fyr rybudd a bod mynediad ar gyfer pobl anaflyb gyfyngedig ar gyfer rhai o'r digwyddiadau oherwydd yr amgylchedd naturiol.

## 16th & 17th September Lost Lands beach cinema (Ticketed Event)

This one of a kind event will take place inside the spectacular setting of the garden walls, with fantastic production on a large inflatable cinema screen, theatre sound, themed cocktail bar, food vendors and live music before sunset. 6pm - 11pm, film starting at approximately 9pm (Sunset).

## 8th October Slow Food™ Fest (Open Event)

Come and Taste, Learn, Eat, Watch, Explore, Share, Shop, Listen, Drink, Enjoy, Hear, Smell, Meet, and have foodie fun! Enjoy a Fest with artisan food and drink producers, food talks, cooking demos, restaurant pop-ups and more. Slow Food - bringing people and good food together! 10am - 4pm.

## 15th October Autumn Garden Festival of Food and Drink (Ticketed Event)

An Autumnal sense adventure showcasing local, small scale independent producers of food and drink, live local musicians and arts in the stunning, historic walled gardens of Dunraven. 12pm-9pm.

*All events are taking place at Dunraven Bay, Southerndown, The Vale of Glamorgan.*

For more information about the pop-up pilot and to purchase tickets or any of the events, please visit: [valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale#popupvale](http://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale#popupvale)

\* please note events could be cancelled at short notice & disability access is limited to some of the events due to the natural environment.





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# Out & About with The GEM

## The Magnificent Seven remake is pretty, well... MAGNIFICENT!

**ONE** of the more infamous pub quiz questions is – name all of the *Magnificent Seven*; well, that question will take on a new meaning as John Sturges' classic Western receives the almost *de-rigueur* 21st century update.

Keeping the same title and the same plot, this *Magnificent Seven* sees a town come under threat from Peter Sarsgaard's wonderfully monickered Bartholomew Bogue, with his plan to industrialise the town – and no-one dare get in his way.

Desperate, Emma Cullen (Haley Bennett) travels to recruit seven loosely-moraled hired guns (led by Denzel Washington, with Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onofrio, Byung-hun Lee, Martin Sensmeier and Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) to defend their town from Bogue and his own mercenary unit...

Remaking a film these days is par-for-the-course; remaking a classic film is a whole new ball game. As those behind *Ghostbusters* discovered earlier this

year, mess with a beloved property and prepare yourself for the criticisms and hate before the films have even been shown.

While Antoine Fuqua's decision to update *The Magnificent Seven* may not have drawn the same bile Paul Feig's *Ghostbusters* reboot/remake attracted, there are probably more than a few that would wonder what (other than name value) a retelling of the original could achieve.

The answer is a blockbuster movie that is almost slavish in its adherence to the Western genre and, in many ways, to the original, yet is vibrant and enjoyable enough to stand on its own two feet. It carries no pretensions or delusions to be anything other than what you would expect from a remake of John Sturges' original, and on that count succeeds with aplomb.

Fuqua burst on the scene with an explosion of tightly-wound fury in *Training Day* (starring, presciently enough, two of the seven in Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke), but since then has been patchy, falling into generic action flicks. However, his work here is impressive,

the climactic shootout in particular (which occupies a large chunk of screentime) wonderfully realised and balancing the need for action with servicing the story.

That the film is 132 minutes (and much of that is assembling the renegade titular group) Fuqua does a great job of allowing the story to develop at a slow, but never dull, pace. While some characters are given greater emphasis than others, Fuqua allows the story to develop before culminating in a shootout that is both gritty and dramatic.

He doesn't try to move the film away from its genre roots either; the conventions of the Western (strangers being eyed up as they walk into town, buildings being burned, religion and violence melding into one) are all wilfully obeyed which, if you are a fan of the genre, makes for entertaining viewing.

Of course, it helps that he's assembled a strong cast to fill out his magnificent septet – Denzel Washington does righteous nobility in the face of adversity better than anyone, while Chris Pratt's rugged charisma gets another run-out

here. While these are the starrier of the seven, the more intriguing performances come from Ethan Hawke, whose character is hiding a secret, and Vincent D'Onofrio's frontiersman who is a man out of time. The script only hints at what lies beneath their characters, but the quality of their turns enhances the flimsiest of characterisation.

That's the biggest fault with the film as whole, that the characters are as flimsy as the sets you would find in the spaghetti westerns of the 1970s.

Some have more depth to them than others, but this all too often feels like an afterthought, and clichés abound with many of them (the weak town sheriff, the plucky but inept townsfolk) while Haley Bennett's Emma may be gun-toting, but her character doesn't really linger.

That aside, there's much to enjoy about *The Magnificent Seven* – it doesn't try to reinvent the wheel, nor does it offer anything fundamentally different to the original, but with a charming cast and a degree of energy, it's a pretty magnificent slice

of action fun.

**VERDICT:** A remake that doesn't do a disservice to its progenitor, *The Magnificent Seven* is an enjoyable western that delivers all that you would want. The performances carry personality and charm, and Antoine Fuqua's direction makes the build-up carry pace and a climax that delivers on carnage. It may not be a particularly deep piece of work, but it's a satisfying one. *Enjoyable.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU**

**LIKED:** *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), *3.10 To Yuma*



by **GARETH JAMIESON**  
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## Variety show at Parish Hall

**RIGHT:**  
Duncan Norvelle



**MICHAEL GEORGE'S**  
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an evening of music  
hall and variety,  
comes to The  
Parish Hall, Dinas  
Powys on Saturday,  
October 8, as part  
of their UK tour.

The show stars Duncan 'Chase me' Norvelle. Joining Duncan will be local musical theatre singer Kelly Virgill and Michael George, variety acts, the London Varieties Showgirls, and a live band led by musical director Nigel Hart.

Michael George's London Varieties takes its inspiration from older variety shows, and offers the audience a good time through a series of traditional acts.

Tickets (£12) are available from Ticketsource on 0333 666 3366 or book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonvarieties](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonvarieties).

**Ball is cancelled**  
Due to poor ticket sales. Y Bont has cancelled the Hallowe'en fancy dress ball which was to have been held on October 28 at The Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge.

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## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery number D950.**

● **£2,000:** 361477.  
● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500, was not won this week.**  
● **£10:** 190823, 799058, 432481, 672849, 371278, 479693, 936738, 185983, 575456, 893376, 255848, 634986, 247760, 307286, 870665, 339468, 664409, 000224, 000766, 1647514.

● **£5:** 400406, 859102, 803101, 527908, 865819, 883012, 365475, 504465, 587796, 582482.

210953, 529498, 725294, 544380, 891247, 315985, 328584, 957398, 233247, 595108, 475198, 681655, 424363, 742916, 218262, 496400, 777591, 617667, 329118, 165196, 981669, 419625, 351012, 146910, 560639, 469743, 187810, 598878, 423035, 295117, 577700, 289796, 200897, 737347, 717164, 542919, 875396, 887695, 798877, 139809, 466725, 145224, 192908, 829786, 001037, 000606, 001575, 1220039, 1092096.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.  
For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

## WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

### Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of Bridgend Town Council, Coun Robert Morgan, and Bridgend Town Council, are holding a Macmillan Cancer Support cake and coffee morning at Carnegie House Wyndham Street, Bridgend between 10am and 12 noon on Friday, September 30.

The Mayor would be delighted to welcome

everyone to attend this event.

### Keep your teeth!

**NATIONAL Smile Month** is a campaign to improve oral health care in our community.

Cardiff and Vale Dental are having a session aimed at the older person, who can have particular problems with oral healthcare due to medication, poor eyesight, weakness of arms or hands etc.

A health care professional will be available on Tuesday, October 4 from 10am to 12pm at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Telev Project Vale of Glamorgan aims to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people, helping them to manage living on their own with a simple, easy to use device.

An adviser from Telev will be available to chat to and will demonstrate the device. This session will take place at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop on Tuesday, October 4 from 10am to 12pm. Call 01446 732385 for further information, no appointment needed.

## Beaujolais Day at Fonmon Castle

**JOIN us at Fonmon to celebrate the day when bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau, the new wine from the first harvest of grapes in the Beaujolais region of France, are officially released.**

On Thursday November 17 from 6pm to 10pm, enjoy an informative talk from our wine expert Charles Reardon-Smith from Wales Academy of Wine, while tasting three glasses of different Beaujolais wines in a relaxed and informal environment.

Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely two course tapas style buffet supper including a selection of French and Welsh cheeses.

Prices: £25.00 per person; tickets are strictly limited, so book now to avoid disappointment.

[www.fonmoncastle.com](http://www.fonmoncastle.com)  
[e:fonmon\\_castle@msn.com](mailto:e:fonmon_castle@msn.com)  
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## Welsh star plans an ultra marathon for Marie Curie

### Actor Mark takes on Beacons Ultra

WELSH actor, Mark Lewis Jones, will battle the winter elements in November, as he runs a 47-mile ultra-marathon in the Brecon Beacons to raise money for the Marie Curie Hospice at Penarth.

The Beacons Ultra, which in recent years has taken place in temperatures of minus 8 degrees, will push the Wrexham-born actor to his limits. He will climb 1,675 metres – almost double the height of Pen y Fan.

Earlier this year, he became a 'Pay for a Day' ambassador for Marie Curie and is aiming to raise £6,660, which is how much the charity needs to raise to run the Vale hospice for a single day.

Mark, who is based in Cardiff, is best known for his leading role in the Sky One drama *Stella*, as well as roles in *Game of Thrones*, *Hinterland* and with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He is currently fitting his training regime around a

busy filming schedule for his latest roles in *National Treasure* for Channel 4 with Robbie Coltrane and Julie Walters, and the second series of Welsh drama *Byw Cefnydd* which is due to screen on S4C early next year.

"I've seen firsthand the work that Marie Curie nurses and all the hospice staff provide," said Mark. "Not only do they care for people with terminal illnesses, but they also provide emotional support to their families and loved ones, and offer vital bereavement support for children, too."

"I know that this run across the Beacons is going to be tough, but I wanted to do my bit to support the hospice staff as they continue to care for people at the end of their lives, when they need it most."

"These amazing people will keep me motivated to get up those hills and through the wind, rain and snow to the finish."

In order to sponsor Mark, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-lewis-jones](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-lewis-jones).



Mark Lewis Jones training for the ultra marathon.

## Can you help Jasper find a new home?



JASPER is a lovely five-year-old lurcher, and although a little worried initially, he just needs someone willing to take their time handling him.

Jasper mixes well with other dogs and would benefit from living in a home with another well-adjusted dog.

He will need to live with patient owners who have trained difficult dogs before, and without children.

If you can give Jasper a loving home, please call 01656 725219, or visit the Bridgend rehoming centre's website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

## GAPS IN THE CURRICULUM

WHEN Grammar schools were largely abolished to establish Comprehensive schools, the error that was made was to drop from the curriculum several of the valuable subjects which had been considered essential for an informed adult – such as economics and social sciences, discussed among the pupils.

There is no virtue at all in reverting to divisive Grammar schools, but we must teach all children to form responsible views of human society. Repeatedly, this Conservative Government has declared that school

education aims to meet the standards of complacent businessmen, such as Lord Sugar, to prepare children for 'the world of work' as cogs in a monster machine – which intends to serve only the 'elite' who control and benefit from the profits.

That is a wicked travesty of what education seeks to achieve for the mind of every child – with lessons on topics such as civics and ethics, rights, duties and responsibilities.

These encourage pupils to think and discuss their own future contribution to the nation, so that one day, they will build a much finer, honest Britain, to be proud of.  
N Westminster,  
Brynna

## The Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes enjoy soiree

THE Orangery at Margam Abbey was the idyllic setting for a soiree organised for the members of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes on September 20.

One hundred and thirty ladies from all over the county were greeted with a glass of buck's fizz as they arrived, followed by dinner.

During the evening, they were entertained by Mark Evans, baritone.

Mr Evans amused them with stories and anecdotes about his life and he serenaded the ladies with a selection of favourite songs by, among others, Ivor Novello, George Gershwin and Gilbert and Sullivan.

The evening was a resounding success and Ann Davies, chairman of Glamorgan Federation and Ann Jones, vice chairman, were thanked for their hard work in organising such a wonderful event. JE

## Mark returns to Hensol Castle

THE Vale Resort has appointed a new resort operations manager for the day-to-day running of the hotel and Hensol Castle.

Mark McKnight (38), who lives in Cwmbran, was hotel operations manager at The Grand Hotel in Bristol, having previously worked at the Marriott in Swansea and the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport.

He has come full circle, as he was previously assistant resort food and beverage



Mark McKnight

service manager at the four-star resort for two years, leaving in 2005.

## A talk on old photos

THE Rhose and District History Society is hosting a talk by Ann Konsbruck and Margaret Jenkins on 'A Box of Old Photos'.

This will take place tomorrow (Friday, September 30), at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets on the door are £1 per adult; 50p child (under 16).



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# Proud Gwyneth introduces her team to the royal visitor at the Sandville centre

Pictures by Malcolm Nugent.  
Words by Keith E Morgan.

**T**HE Sandville Self Help Centre welcomed a royal visitor recently when HRH the Duchess of Gloucester arrived to meet the centre's founder, Gwyneth Poacher.

The Duchess was welcomed by a guard of honour provided by Sergeant Emily Taylor of Porthcawl Air Cadet Squadron 2347 and Company Sergeant Major Tyler Maidment of the Bridgend Army Cadet Force, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Mrs Kate Thomas.

The welcoming party included the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Gwyn J George, followed by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, AM, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Reg and Mrs Teresa Jenkins.

Gwyneth gave the Duchess a very warm welcome, before introducing her to the Sandville management team – deputy centre director, Sister Peggy Parrish, house manager, Gary Banks, and care manager, Gareth Griffiths.

She explained that these were the only paid members at the Sandville, which is run by volunteers – many of whom the Duchess would meet on her tour of the centre.

She was also presented to the trustees of the Sandville, chairman Rod Thomas, vice-chairman Irene Keen, Marilyn and Arthur Beal, Geoff Dower, Ruth Foster and Jane Hibberd.

The Duchess then began her tour, and Gwyneth introduced her to members of the many organisations that support Sandville, together with volunteers and patients. The Duchess saw the kitchen, a selection of bedrooms, therapy rooms, and the hydrotherapy pool, where she met young Cory, who was receiving treatment.

Next was the sensory garden, St Michael's Church, where she met members of the local clergy, the log cabin, the conservatory, where members of Gwyneth's family were introduced and, lastly, the main lounge.

The Duchess' final act was to unveil a plaque to commemorate the occasion, that had been prepared and donated by Paul Crockett, of Bellview Monumental Masons.

This she did in style, helped by Amelia and Ellis, two of the children that regularly attend Sandville. However, before she was allowed to go, the Duchess was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Danny Jones, formerly of the Sandville Hotel, Porthcawl, where Gwyneth was given her first opportunity to practice her therapies for cancer patients.

A last shake of the hand and chat with PCSO Leslie Kerrigan and the Duchess was off with her entourage to another engagement with St John Ambulance in Bridgend.

The visit might have been over for the Duchess, but for those at Sandville the day was to carry on with a barbecue organised by Neil Poacher, ably supported by Effion Evans, David Wicks, Betsy Thomas and, of course, Gwyneth herself!

All the food had been donated for the event (one hundred weight of onions, 300 bread rolls, 160 sausages and 150 beef burgers) and prepared in the kitchen by Margaret and Ieuan.

The inviting smell from the barbecue had been drifting around the centre during the visit and everyone was eager to tuck in and satisfy the hunger bug created by the wafting aroma.

*What a wonderful end to a wonderful day.*

*See next week's GEM for more photos of the day.*



*The Duchess of Gloucester was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Dennis Jones of the Sandville Hotel.*



*The Duchess meets a Sandville patient while visiting the church.*



*Unveiling the commemorative plaque.*



*Gwyneth Poacher took The Duchess on a tour of the centre.*



*The management team at the Sandville were introduced to The Duchess.*



*The Duchess admires the church bell as Jeff Tooms looks on.*



*The Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough greeted The Duchess when she arrived.*



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# THE LOCAL COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND BEN WITH A SPECIAL GOLF DAY AT ST ATHAN CLUB



Left to right Paul Michael, Ady Hawkins, Gemma Brownhill and Luke Sloan.



Andy Mcintyre, Paul Lindsay and Stuart Lindsay.



Mike Clark Terry Punter and Gary Punter.



St Athan Club captain Craig Sheman.



Lee Perry Gail Prosser JWG Morgan

ON Thursday, September 22, a charity golf day was held at St Athan Golf Club to raise money to help fund the treatment of Benjamin Morgan-Brownhill, who lives in Rhosce.

Adrian Hawkins and his wife Jackie, who are both members of St Athan Golf Club, came up with the fundraising idea after learning about Ben's battle against an extremely rare kidney disease (C3GN/MPGN-Type 1).

It is one of many events being held in the community to raise a staggering £175,000 needed to treat him and give Ben a chance of restored health – so the battle commenced and communities have united to give this delightful young man a chance.

St Athan Golf Club, when approached by Adrian and Jackie, embraced the idea and gave them 'courtesy of the course' to hold the event, with Leanne Gordon, the club's caterer providing delicious food for those attending.

Adrian and Jackie spent endless hours contacting local businesses and individuals for raffle donations and auction items, as well as obtaining prize money and sponsorship for the 18 holes to be played.

A total of 97 golfers took part on the day in the 18 hole, three man team stableford competition, with the best two scores counting on each card.

It was particularly nice to see several lady members supporting the event.

The weather was perfect as they played some fantastic golf throughout the day. The greens staff at St Athan had the golf course in perfect condition, which proved as always to be a great challenge to everyone participating.

By the end of play there were some excellent scores in the club house including four 'twos' by the end of the competition.

Those participating also had the chance to prove their skills in the nearest the pin and the longest drive competitions.

1st prize - Pete Williams, Willie Windsor & Jordan Isaac (78 s/f pts).

2nd prize - Paul Michael, Richard Michael & Luke Sloan (77 s/f pts).

3rd prize - Gill Jones, Terry Diaper & Maureen Anderson (76 s/f pts ocb).

Longest Drive, yellow tee - Nic Baldwin (E Cube Solutions).

Longest Drive, red tee - Sian Lovell (Cottrell Park)

Nearest the pin 6th Hole - Sian

Lovell (Cottrell park)

Nearest the pin 16th Hole - Andy McIntyre (St Athan)

Ben's Mum Gemma presented the triumphant prize winners with their winnings as well as prizes for nearest the pins/longest drives and 'twos'.

Prize money for the day was very generously donated by Nathaniel Cars of Bridgend and Gareth Lucas from UK Hydrosides of Llantwit Major.

Following this the raffle and auction was held, with a fantastic array of items up for grabs to the highest bidders.

The bidding was cut throat as those present pushed up the bids to secure their lot and once again people dug deep into their pockets to ensure the monies raised were boosted.

All the hard work and effort was well worth it and at the end of the day at the 19th hole, Adrian and Jackie announced that they will be able to present Gemma with a cheque for an amazing £3,806.

Adrian and Jackie would like to take this opportunity to thank all the competitors and people who supported the event.

Adrian and Jackie said: "Special thanks go to St Athan Golf Club and their staff for the courtesy of the course and to the greens staff who as always, had the course in excellent condition.

"Without the generosity of all the sponsors, the individuals and businesses who donated prize money, raffle items and auction items, the event could not have taken place.

"We thank you sincerely for your tireless generosity, which has been overwhelming to Ben, his family and friends."

If anyone would like to donate to Ben's fundraising cause, they can do so by visiting [www.gofundme.com/apriceonlife](http://www.gofundme.com/apriceonlife)

AH & JH

## BRA Day event

AN evening event in Swansea next month will give women the chance to share experiences of breast reconstruction and help others find out more about the surgery.

Coinciding with international Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day, it will bring together patients, medical professionals and breast cancer support groups from 5.30pm – 9.30pm on October 19 at the Village Hotel in Swansea.

Contact Jill Isaac on 01792 703806, or email [jill.isaac@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jill.isaac@wales.nhs.uk).

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## 'NURTURE WELSH AT THE GRASSROOTS' – CALL

FOLLOWING a call by Plaid Cymru for more funding to ensure more teachers and assistants can use Welsh in the classroom, Welsh Conservative spokesman for the Welsh language, Suzy Davies AM, said that pupils who aren't in a wholly Welsh medium system need far more exposure to the language in the early years of their own education, to help them move away from the idea of Welsh as a second language.

"This goes hand in hand with everyday demonstration that Welsh exists outside the classroom – and is for use outside the classroom. This is

where the language really lives.

"To achieve this, we need to work much more closely with businesses and public services to ensure that speakers of all levels, including adults who have missed out on learning Welsh, can feel confident to use and test their Welsh without judgment."

She added: "By including small bits of Welsh into everyday life, we can help grow the language from a grassroots level so that our pupils walk out of the school gates and into communities where they can use both their languages."

"This must be at the heart of our nation's Welsh language strategy."

## Vale Explorer Scouts gain awards



SEVEN members of the Vale Explorer Scout unit were recently invited to a presentation night at County Hall in Cardiff – to receive their Chief Scout awards and to be inducted into the 14th Cardiff, Lord Mayor's Own ceremonial Scout troop, named in recognition of the service given by 14th Cardiff Scouts during the 1913 Sengenydd mining disaster.

As honorary members of this troop, they will be asked to undertake civic and ceremonial duties at events such as Remembrance Day and key official visits to Cardiff and the Vale area.

The awards are similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme where participants undertake

various challenges.

The Diamond Chief Scout's Award was awarded to Rob Lewis and Dylan Lloyd-Doyle and the Platinum Chief Scout's Award to Conor Wilkinson, Isobel Davies, Huw Mason, Izzy Lynn and Abbie Johnson.

Vale Explorer Scout Unit leader Kevin Hicks said: "I am extremely proud of the achievements of all these young people. They are a real credit to themselves and their families with the time and effort they put into their Scouting, and the local communities."

Explorer Scouts is the fourth section of the Scout movement and is for 14 to 18-year-olds. Many activities are made available and these include D of E, water or land-based activities as well as continuing to participate in the progressive award scheme of Scouting.



## Fitzalan High School Open Evening

Thursday, 6 October 2016  
4.00-6.30pm

With 99% of our pupils leaving Fitzalan with 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2016, come and find out how YOU can be part of our success. [www.fitzalan.cardiff.sch.uk](http://www.fitzalan.cardiff.sch.uk)



## Toby is looking for a quiet life



Toby the terrier cross.

**T**OBY is a clever, spunky terrier cross – he is only 15 months old, and with soft, gentle handling, he is a real sweetie.

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Toby has previously lived with cats and mixes well with other dogs. He loves to play with his toys and loves a cuddle.

If you can offer Toby a loving forever home, call us on 01656 725219 or visit the Dogs Trust Bridgend website [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

## David Emanuel mixes couture with coffee

FASHION designer David Emanuel is mixing cake with couture as he hosts his third Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in south Wales.

Bridgend-born David, now finding a new thread of fame with the UK series of *Say Yes to the Dress* is hosting his third Macmillan coffee morning in the gardens of Gileston Manor in the Vale on Friday, September 30.

The event at the manor is between 10am and 1pm on the same day that thousands of people in the UK will be baking and brewing for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Funds from David's coffee morning will help Macmillan to provide

services for people with cancer.

David said: "I am thrilled to be hosting my third World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan. My Macmillan nurse was a great support to me when I was diagnosed with cancer, so it's fantastic to host a coffee morning which will help Macmillan to fund its services for people with cancer."

Admission to the coffee morning is £5 on the gate, with proceeds going to Macmillan.



David Emanuel.





# ELVIS FESTIVAL HAS A SPIRITUAL SIDE!



ABOVE: This Elvis travelled from Baden Baden in Germany for the festival.



Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan.

## Derelict church to be transformed into 14 homes at Aberkenfig



Back to front: Bill Payne, chair of Hafod Housing; Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member regeneration and economic development, BCBC; Coun Ceri Reeves, cabinet member for communities, BCBC; Alan Morgan, managing director Hafod Housing and Sharon Lee, director Housing Justice Cymru, on a recent visit to see progress on site.

WAS Elvis a Christian? This was the theme of Gilgal Baptist Church's contribution to this year's Elvis Festival in Porthcawl.

The church members set up a gospel sing-along at the band street in John Street and as well as handing out 'one billion dollar bills', they were inviting passers-by to write their comments on a flip-chart board to the question, Was Elvis a Christian? Not surprisingly, there was a steady flow of people who recorded their comments on the board.

Playing in the background were gospel songs and hymns that Elvis made popular during his career. However, as an extra, there was an almost continuous live performance throughout the day by that well known local country and western singer and guitarist, Ivor Williams of Porthcawl.

Ivor sang many of Elvis' gospel songs and an appreciative audience that gathered around the Bandstand and were invited to join in the singing.

As with past festivals there were scores of visitors to the town, with many of these in their Elvis gear. Roads had been closed, waste skips and portable loos had been placed at strategic places, extra traffic wardens and car park attendants were on hand for the quickly-filling car parks and the police were out in force to ensure that peace reigned throughout Porthcawl during the entire festival.

WORK is progressing well at an Aberkenfig housing development on 14 affordable homes on the site of a former derelict church.

Over 300 people are on a waiting list for one and two bedroom homes, and the Hafod Housing Association, BCBC and Housing Justice Cymru scheme is replacing the derelict Carey Baptist Church.

The 10 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments are due for completion in November 2016 and will be available to rent.

## Your chance to see group Jon Bon Jovi rates 'the best tribute band I have ever seen'

ONE of the most iconic bands of the 1980s Bon Jovi had platinum selling albums and a plethora of anthemic singles around the world.

A spokesman for Bon Jovi's tribute band said: "'Livin' On a Prayer, the Bon Jovi Experience' are regarded by many as the world's first and finest tribute."

"The fact that they have performed live with Jon Bon Jovi himself and are featured on the official Bon

Jovi website tells people all they need to know!

"The band has played all over the world and front man Tony Bon-Jovi can hold an audience like no other."

"If you want to rock til you drop, you'd better get to Barry Memo Arts Centre on Friday, October 7."

Jon Bon Jovi himself dubbed the band "The best tribute I've ever seen".

TV presenter and DJ Chris Evans also rates them highly, commenting: "They are just fantastic."

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Bridgend male choir

MY wife and I attended the concert held in the Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, which was held in memory of Merlin Maddock MBE, and to raise funds to find the causes and cures for Parkinson's Disease.

The compère for the evening was Huw Edwards, the BBC newsreader and BAFTA award-winning presenter. He was in great form and ensured all introductions were carried out smoothly.

Bridgend Male Choir were well-marshalled by new musical director Ryan Wood, founder and musical director of Noteworthy mixed voice choir. The choir sang a lovely medley of songs in Welsh and English.

The accompanist, Stephanie Bailey (piano) and Scott Williams (organ) deserve a mention for their high standard of performance.

The Eos trio of Angharad Edwards (harp), Bethan Thomas (soprano) and Meirion Davies (contralto) which was only formed 12 months ago, have improved so much.

The stars of the evening, Ffaldau Primary School Choir, who sang *Colours of the Wind*, *Count On Me* and *When I Grow Up* were simply outstanding.

My visitors, one from Trinidad and Tobago, the other from the Isle of Man, were both truly impressed with the quality of music.

**Aberkenfig & District WI**  
PRESIDENT Eunice Williams opened the meeting on September 14 and welcomed the members; Happy Birthday was sung to Sally Jones, who was actually in London with her family!

It was reported that the visit to Chepstow Races in July was a lovely day out and members would like to do this again. The August visit to Picton Castle was another fine day out; Poems and Pints on September 1 was a lively evening and the members thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Aberkenfig was quite successful in the Federation quiz on September 13 in the Hi Tide; they didn't actually win, but did score 83 and the winner scored 93 – so not a bad result.

The speaker for the afternoon was Gareth, from the Bridgend branch of the Samaritans, accompanied by Lowri. Gareth explained the history of the Samaritans and how it has grown over the years from its birth in 1953 to what it is today.

Bridgend branch opened in the 1970s. Volunteers are trained to listen, they do not give advice.

The Samaritans also have vans in towns on

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Saturday nights to let the youngsters know they are there for them. They also have a presence at the Princess of Wales A & E at weekends. They are also in foodbanks, schools and Network Rail, and there are leaflets available at Bridgend Station. Gillian Williams gave a vote of thanks.

The raffle was won by Eunice Williams and Sondra Parry and the competition of an old photo was won by Pat Lewis.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. Visitors and new members are made welcome.

The next meeting will be on October 12. For further information, call Dylis on 01656 725399, visit [www.cobwebs.co.uk](http://www.cobwebs.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomeninstitute](http://www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomeninstitute).

**Urdd Eisteddfod**  
THE Urdd Eisteddfod 2017 is being held in Bridgend and Proclamation Day next month will take place on October 8.

It will start with a parade through Bridgend, with activities on Newbridge Fields, including Mister Urdd; live music, circus skills, stalls and exhibitions. It will be a fun-filled day for all the family.

All children are requested to wear clothes in patriotic red, white and green. If you require further information, look up the Urdd web page.

**Coffee for charity**

**TYNRYHEOL Primary School, Llangineir headteacher J Blackman is pleased that the children have settled in so quickly to the school routine after the summer recess.**

The children have visited her in her office and shown her the work they are doing in class and are really taking pride in their achievements.

Tomorrow (Friday, September 30) the school is hosting a coffee afternoon in aid of Macmillan cancer support.

All parents/carers, governors and friends of the school are welcome to join in at 2pm. Mrs Munro has been busy organising the staff.

Parents and carers will be able to collect their children from class and take them to buy cakes before the end of the school day.

The school is organising a Family Engagement/Community

Day on October 7. It has invited local groups, organisations and charities to host information stands for parents, families and people who live in Llangineir.

On October 7 the school is also asking pupils, staff and parents to 'dress loud' for the day in support of Global's Make Some Noise. All the school asks for is a minimum donation of £1 per child.

Global give a voice to small projects across the UK; they support small charities which help youngsters and their families living with illness, disability and lack of opportunity.

The charity chosen to receive a grant in Wales this year is Y Bont – 'the bridge' in Welsh – which perfectly represents how Y Bont connects families and provides valuable links to appropriate support for parents with disabled children.

A grant from Global's Make Some Noise will help support the charity's goal of funding a new nursery nurse to offer medical, communication and behavioural expertise. Over 2,000 children and families have benefited from Y Bont's support services, parent workshops and play schemes.

**Star pupils**  
PUPILS receive star awards on a weekly basis for how well they have functioned during the week.

Last week in the nursery: Jacob Thomas for settling so well in to class. Reception: Mia Hawkins for beautiful writing; Macey Copping for super maths homework. Year-1: Rohan Davies for trying hard. Year-2: Nikisha Edwards for good reading and spelling. Year-3: Elijah Pook for a super effort with his attitude to learning. Year-4: Dafydd Jeremy for doing the right thing when someone was unkind to him. Year-5: Zoe Baird for excellent presentation in all her books. Year-6: Jak Lewis for much improved attitude and behaviour.

The headteacher has given a special award to Alex Hawkins, for displaying such a positive mature attitude and commitment to all his work.

**Cancer support**

**CEFN Cribwr Athletic Club is supporting the Macmillan's Coffee Morning on Saturday, October 1, with tonnes of cake and gallons of tea and coffee and stronger drinks available behind the**

bar! Everyone is welcome.

**Gardening club**

**L A L E S T O N Gardening Club, which has approximately 150 members, meets at Cliff Cottage, High Street, Laleston, CF32 0LG.**

The club has a thriving ladies' section, which meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. On October 4 there is the AGM and a talk by Sian James on craft sale; on October 18 Alison Westwood will speak on 'Preparing for Christmas'.

Lectures are given on the second Monday of the month between October and June at 7.30pm; on Monday, October 10 there will be a lecture by Ivor Mace on the use of various composts, fertilisers and manures.

**Choir schedule**

**OGMORE Valley Male Choir is heavily involved with the local community and rehearses at Canolfan Bethlehem.**

On Saturday, October 1 it will be leading the singing at the wedding of Chloe Parsons in Court Colman; and on October 8 it will be entertaining residents at Porthcawl Masonic Home, which provides specialist nursing care to dementia sufferers.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and always welcomes new members and guests.

**School PTFA**  
**TYNRYHEOL Primary School PTFA will hold its AGM tomorrow, September 30 at Llangineir football club at 7.30pm.**

It is a valued fundraiser for the school. It subsidises school trips and donates money towards resources for the pupils. It is open to suggestions for new events, and fundraising ideas to support the children in school.

**Mayor's fund**  
THE Mayor of Maesteg's fund was launched in 2013 to support community services or charities that provide care or assistance to residents in the Llynfi Valley.

Over the last three years, the fund has raised over £14,000, with cash donated to a number of local causes.

The current mayor, Coun Jennifer Terry, has nominated Macmillan Cancer Support, Diabetes Wales, Caerau Community Growers and Noddfa Youth to benefit from the fund.

The first major

fundraising event is a Macmillan coffee morning this Friday, September 30 at the council offices at Maesteg between 10am and 2pm, where you can join the Mayor for coffee and cakes in the council chamber.

Entertainment will be provided by members of the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, and local historian Roy Meredith will provide fascinating historical information about the building.

On October 7 at 2pm there will be a Duck Race on the river above Brewer's Field off Caerau Road in Caerau (opposite the Blaenllynfi Hotel). Ducks can be purchased from Noddfa Youth or the council offices for just £1, with a first prize of £50, second of £30 and third of £10.

**Parents invited**

**TONDU primary school headteacher Susan Pilsher invites parents and carers of pupils in Mrs Nixon's class, Ogwr, to take part in the assembly on Thursday, October 6 at 10.20am and a 'Linger and Learn' session with the children (half an hour of fun learning activities).**

The school is supporting the Bridgend Foodbank for its Harvest appeal this year and would be grateful for donations of the following items: tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, instant mash, tinned fish, instant coffee. Please bring in your donations of food on Thursday, October 6 ONLY. Please check that they are well within their use-by date.

On October 7 the children will have a non-uniform day. They are asked to wear green, white or orange clothes (the colours of the Ugandan flag) and support a sponsored Ugandan child, Paskali. A donation of £1 is requested to raise money for his education.

**Wildlife Trust**  
THE Trust based at Parc Slip nature reserve, Fountain Road, Tondur, CF32 0EH is organising events at its visitor centre: on Monday, October 3 at 7.30pm there will be an educational wildlife talk by Dr Kirsten McEwan on foraging, discovering edible food, medicine and folklore.

On October 7, young environmentalists (aged 5 to 13) accompanied by a parent or guardian are encouraged to visit the nature reserve after dark, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

All must wear suitable clothing and footwear for this outdoor activity. Booking is essential on 01656 724100.

**Motown Night at Betws Community Club, Heol Dewi Sant, Betws on Friday, October 7 at 7.30pm. General admission 18+ tickets £5. All money raised for St David's Church roof fund.**



Ryan Wood, Huw Edwards, Stephanie Bailey, Scott Williams.



Angharad Edwards on the harp.

## McDonalds plan splits Cowbridge

by Andy Johnstone

**MCDONALDS, the fast food chain, is considering opening a branch in Cowbridge.**

Residents and readers may recall the furore sparked when John Lewis Partnership announced its plans some years ago to open a Waitrose supermarket in the town.

In the interests of local involvement, The GEM's Andy Johnstone took an early-morning stroll along Cowbridge High Street to canvass opinions of people on the Bont Faen brekker run.

"Sarah", 22, from Llandow, who works for a competing high-street brand, and therefore did not want to be identified, welcomed the idea: "It would be lush to have a McDonalds here. Not everyone wants to or has time to sit down and take ages over their breakfast or dinner."

"I hope it's a drive-through," she added. Tom Morgan, a 25-year-old shopfitter from Merthyr Tydfil, also welcomed the news, but said: "I personally like Burger King more than McDonalds, but anything different is going to be good."

David, 15, who was on his way to school, but had bought a bacon roll from a well-known high-street bakery, was another in favour of the plan.

"I have breakfast at home most days, but I like a McMuffin sometimes. I like bacon rolls, too, but there's nowhere for young people to get together in Cowbridge, so I think it would be a good thing."

So much for those in favour, who all were on the right side of 30. Another three people asked about the proposal, and older than 30, had conflicting views. Their concerns fell into five categories: noise, traffic, litter, 'clone towns' and 'not right for Cowbridge'.

Joyce Lloyd expressed dismay at the proposal.

"It's a terrible idea. It's bad enough with the traffic as it is. With a McDonalds – I've never been in one – there will be cars parked willy-nilly blocking disabled spaces and bus stops."

"Yes, Cowbridge has high-street chains, but they are all quite low-key. McDonalds will stand out like a garish sore thumb."

Describing himself as "not a nimbyst", Mike Porter said: "What's that phrase? 'Build it and they will come'? Open a McDonalds and it will be the end of Cowbridge High Street. It will be too noisy, too busy and totally out of keeping for the town."

"There is enough litter anyway, despite what the street cleaners do, but I don't see them donning waders and fishing the rubbish from a McDonalds out of the river."

"There will be queues of schoolchildren in the morning and at lunchtime, spilling out of the place and it will make Cowbridge look like every other high street in the country."

Helen Moore, who opposed Waitrose, but sheepishly, said: "I now shop there," had thoughts

on the burger bar.

"I suppose [McDonalds] will be approved. There will be voices calling it a 'progressive' step for Cowbridge, and I suppose it will bring a few more jobs to the town, but at what cost?"

"There is a reasonable mix of independents and high-street brands here at the moment, and many have added to the town, but a McDonalds? No; it's just not right for Cowbridge."

A spokesperson for McDonald's told The GEM: "We are always looking for new sites and can confirm that Wales is an area where we would like to continue to invest, open new restaurants and create jobs."

"We are looking at several potential opportunities across Wales, but currently have no confirmed plans."

The GEM is keen to receive readers' thoughts on the proposal. Please send correspondence to [gemeditorial@indlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@indlenews.co.uk), including your name, address and telephone number.



Will Ronald McDonald make an appearance in Cowbridge?



# PORTHCAWL RFC JUNIOR ROUND-UP

## TONDU UNDER-11S 15,

## PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-11S 15

Although Tondy may only be a few miles up the road this would be the first time we have played them in over a year.

The first half was a game of two halves within itself, Tondy dominating the first 10 minutes with Porthcawl making all the right noises to finish stronger of the two teams before the break.

There was a very high standard of control from both teams in possession and some great defensive play when both under pressure. All enjoyable to watch, both sets of supporters being treated to a display of skill, bravery and superb rugby awareness.

Not surprising really that the score at half-time was all square, 10-10. Tondy were pegged back from an early 10-0 lead to draw the half with two top drawer tries from their back line.

In the second half the game as it went on to become a rather cagey affair as there were a lot of necessary stops for injuries which just added to the tension as the game couldn't naturally ebb and flow.

Porthcawl went in front for the first time and looked like they could push on to win.

Tondy on the other hand were not quite ready to roll over and capitalised at the death with a great running try against some very tired legs to level the game at 15-15.

From a coaching perspective we picked up from where we left off the previous weekend and the improvement in our approach was obvious. The forwards were top class as they got through so much work.

King of the pack was Evan Carless who added winning scrums against the head to his arsenal while Sam Taylor-King put in a solid overall performance rewarded with a brace of tries for all his efforts. Tries came from Sam (2) and Rhidian Phillips.

## JASON PARKER

## TONDU UNDER-10S 15, PORTHCAWL UNDER-10S

## 35/VALLEY RAVENS UNDER-10S 7 PORTHCAWL 0.

Two completely different games for Porthcawl, the first against a very strong Tondy team where our blitz defence and our speed of moving ball left to right was too much for them.

From the start we moved the ball from left to right and back with Piers smashing up the left and crossing in the corner. From the next play our defence moved up in unison pushing



*Porthcawl senior XV maintained their good start to the season with a win over Bryncethin, and TRACEY WILLIAMS was on hand to catch the action. Here Shaun Wilcox looks to pass the ball.*

them back and not allowing their big ball players to take ball forward nor give their fleet-footed backs the ball in space.

We forced a knock-on and from the resulting scrum Dewi switched play with Oscar from the scrum and crossing in the right corner.

We defended well again and were starting to dominate when Dexter used his strength to cross in corner after we had pulled their defence from left to right. Dexter not only scored a try but was excellent in defence, getting the highest tackle count and was awarded top tackler.

One man who also stepped up in defence was Ben, making six tackles. Lex and Oscar continue their strong defensive game and moved ball well.

Samuel, who also just missed out on an award, also took a well-worked try and continued to push up his tackle count.

Dylan, despite a cold, continued to smash the opposition backwards but saw less of the ball in hand where Piers had more runs and scored two well-worked tries.

Another player to have a strong all round game was Mac - defensively strong, and quick in attack to score in the corner and he was awarded 'club man' making a difference for his strong all-round game.

Scott also continues to improve with his strong running to cross in the corner and he is improving his tackling week after week, earning a well-deserved individual effort award.

Last but not least,

Sonny, making his first appearance, not only made some strong tackles but also showed immense determination to cross in the corner for his debut try - well done. He was awarded the top try scorer award.

The second game we were all tired but we forgot all the good things from first game such as blitz defence and we started bunching rather than moving the team from left to right.

The day's scores were as follows:

## UNDER-8S

Valley Ravens 11, Porthcawl 13; Tondy 8, Porthcawl 12.

## UNDER-9S

Tondy 30, Porthcawl 20.

## UNDER-12S

Porthcawl 0, Llantrisant 12.

## UNDER-13S

Porthcawl 54, Tondy 17.



*ABOVE: Mattie Davies looks to go around the ruck, while BELOW: Tom Bluck breaks through to score his first try.*



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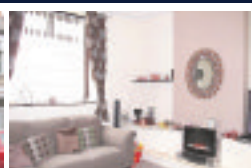
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# Pencoed maintain their good start with a victory

**PENCOED maintained the good start to their Division 2 West Central campaign with this 37-23 victory over Maesteg Celtic at the Recreation Ground.**

The home side took the lead in the fifth minute, outside half Adam Williams slotting a 30 metre penalty goal. Home flanker Ben Harries then did well to check a blindside raid from the visitors with a fine tackle.

Home indiscipline cost them 10 metres and fly half Matthew Harris levelled matters with a penalty goal after 12 minutes. Pencoed then took the lead, retaining the ball through several phases in the visitors' 22 moving the ball from right to left and wing David Young did extremely well to squeeze in at the corner flag.

Harris added a second penalty to reduce the deficit before Pencoed got their second try from the restart, wing Ryan Russell fielding the ball near his own 22 before setting off on a mazy run through the Celtic ranks to veer around the final defender for a superb try.

Play now became to and fro and home hooker Tom Drew did well to clean up a loose Pencoed lineout and as the interval approached Celtic pressed the home side maintaining possession through the phases.

The Pencoed defence held firm however and somewhat against the previous passage of play increased their lead with the final kick of the half, Williams rewarding his side on top of their defensive efforts with a finely judged 45 metre penalty goal into the wind and Pencoed led 16-6 at

the interval.

Within a minute of the restart Harris kicked his third penalty goal, but soon after Russell got his second try, latching on to a loose kick to race away from 45 metres, again veering away from the last defender for a fine try. Williams converted and Pencoed led 23-9.

Pencoed should have got another, forwards and backs combining well only to lose possession metres out. The home side were not to be denied however, the backs moving the ball in the visitors' 22 and centre Rhys Thomas straightened onto the pass to score at the posts, Williams adding the extras.

Celtic to their credit hit right back and following sustained pressure in the home 22 wing Ben Poole got their opening try, Harris adding adding the conversion. Pencoed returned to the visitors' 22 and second row Ricky Somers picking a good angle almost breached the last line of defence.

Celtic counter-attacked, moving the ball to both flanks and their patience got its reward, No. 8 John Davies capitalising on his sides driving play to cross wide out, Harris adding a fine conversion from the touchline, and at 30-23 matters were yet to be decided.

In the final minutes Pencoed then won a close up scrum and Kyle Barrett broke before finding second row Dano Howells who had to use every inch of his frame to reach out and hit the try line to seal the match for his side. Williams converted and the curtain came down on this most entertaining of matches.

TR

# BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH EDGE OUT PENCOED IN CUP

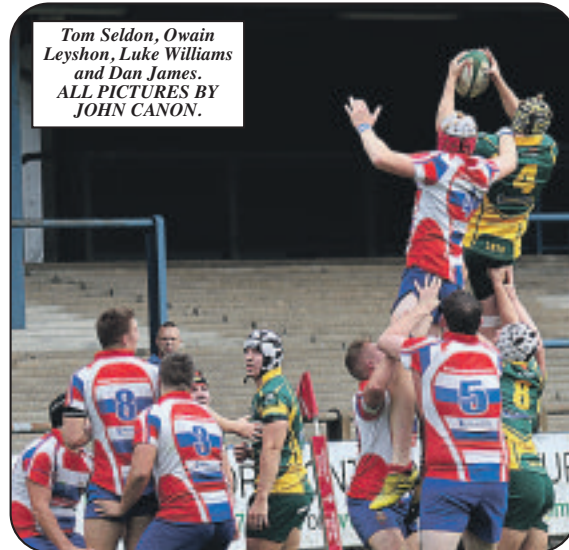


Action from the game.



John Taylor crosses the line for the Athletic's try.

Tom Seldon, Owain Leyshon, Luke Williams and Dan James.  
ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANON.



**THIS game between Pencoed and Bridgend Athletic youth in the first round of the Webb Ellis Cup was played at the Bridgend Ford Brewery Field as Pencoed's pitch was not available.**

Pencoed were in control of the game from

kick off; they attacked the Athletic defence as soon as the ball entered the 22 metre line, but good defensive play by the Athletic's backs ensured Pencoed could not make the most of the attacking forwards who seemed to be in control of the game.

The Athletic fullback took everything in the air, robbing Pencoed of many chances to score. Infringements by the Athletic forwards in the first half cost them dearly and Pencoed's No. 10, Jacob Davies slotted the ball over the crossbar twice, one of them from the halfway line - an incredible kick. The score at half-time was Pencoed 6, Bridgend Athletic 0.

Some enthusiastic coaching from Lee Grabham at the break seemed to have inspired the Athletic team and from the kick off they attacked Pencoed in force, using their substitutes to full effect.

Stuart Floyd Ellis, back in the team after an injury, soon took advantage of the tiring Pencoed forwards and ran at them and found weaknesses in their defence. Play was now dominating in the Pencoed 22 - they seemed to hold the Athletic onslaught at bay, their defence working tirelessly to stop them scoring the try they needed to get back into the game.

Good kicking from

both Jacob Davies and Luke Bevan dominated the second half, clearing the ball on many an occasion. Scrummaging from both teams was aggressive with Pencoed and the Athletic winning their fair share of the ball. Lineouts were also fairly won by both teams.

Bridgend Athletic fielded several players from last season's under-16s and they gave great performances and would not be intimidated by the experienced Pencoed team.

It was from some great handling of the ball on the left side that the ball eventually found the safe hands of John Taylor who out ran the Pencoed defence to score a try that turned the game around. Luke Bevan took the conversion from a difficult angle to slot the ball over, another great kick from the impressive Athletic centre.

Pencoed did not let their heads drop - they attacked the Athletic's defence with determination, but they held out and were unlucky to have not scored more tries with Luke Bevan and Stuart Floyd Ellis just failing to cross the line thanks to good tackling by Pencoed.

The final score was Pencoed 6, Bridgend Athletic 7.

JC

# Under-strength Pencoed Phoenix earn victory

**WITH the Pencoed Phoenix player availability stretched to the limits for the second week in succession, ever-green Phoenix coach Leanne Casley found herself back in that most unforgiving of places, the front row! Casley was as reliable as ever in a 35 minute cameo appearance.**

Territorially into a stiff breeze the home side were having the better of the opening quarter against Ynysddu ladies, 22, and Phoenix won a

but it was the visitors who almost broke the deadlock, breaking away from their own 22 before Laura Aitken did well to race back and clear her lines.

Charlotte Mundy then did well to keep the Phoenix try line intact with a try-saving tackle only metres out. The now blustery conditions were getting the better of both sides and the interval arrived on top of a scoreless first half.

A fine cover tackle from behind from home wing Zoe Reeves then saved her side before Aitken broke away to take play to the visitors' 22, and Phoenix won a

penalty for Hannah Seward to give her side the lead.

Then there were try scoring chances at both ends, the visitors missing a glorious opportunity, knocking on the final pass with the line at their mercy, before a cruel bounce at right angles denied Phoenix with Leanne Burnell looking likely to get the touchdown.

The introduction of replacement prop Becca Pope gave the home scrum fresh impetus and following a dominant home scrum Seward broke before offloading to scrum half Rhiannyd Morgan who crossed for the try in determined manner. Seward converted and Phoenix led 10-0.

The visitors kept their hopes alive however with a late try in the corner but Phoenix saw out the final minutes to gain a hard earned deserved league victory in the circumstances.

For Phoenix Lucy Morgan was chosen as best forward, and Rhiannyd Morgan best back. For Ynysddu Jody Williams was picked as best forward and Leah Price as best back.

**Phoenix gained triple success on the day with their under-15s beating Caerphilly 47-10, and the under-18s gaining a 57-14 win over Treorchy.**

TR

# Sports' under-11s short trip proves worthwhile

**IT was a short trip down the M4 to Baglan for Bridgend Sports under-11s, a side they had not played in previous seasons.**

The uncertainty of new opponents and the fact that the Sports were to face an under-11s team that is coached by Ospreys and Wales giant Paul James added to the pre-match excitement.

Following an indifferent week at the Maesteg Celtic Clive Evans Memorial Tournament last week, the Sports needed to bounce back and regain the confidence they had started the season with.

They did not disappoint as they played their part in a highly entertaining game that saw 16 tries scored as both teams tried to move the ball at every opportunity.

Six of the 16 tries were scored in the first half. Bridgend Sports took the initiative from the kick off as they raced into a 20-0 lead with early tries from Tom Chick, Joel Rogers, Cadan Hayes and Dewi Worrall.

The first three were down to some good all-round team play, where the Sports concentrated on pressuring the opposition in the tackle and ruck area and then they moved the ball through the hands along the back line to players in space.

Tom Chick, Joel Rogers and Cadan Hayes made sure the tactic earned the deserved reward, as they used their pace to round off the moves for three excellent tries.

The fourth try was scored when a similar attack broke down out wide and after a couple of short range attacks through the forwards, Dewi Worrall used his strength to force himself over following a neat overhead pass from Ben King.

The four tries were reward for some solid work up front, where Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Mackenzie Dent and Mason Balmer ensured a

steady supply of ball for the Sports backs to move the ball wide at every opportunity.

Harri Williams tackled everything in sight as he rediscovered his form, to ensure Baglan were not able to make any ground in the early stages of the game.

Baglan continued to try and put a number of attacks together by moving the ball when in possession.

It was an approach that saw them threaten the Sports line on several occasions before they scored two late first half tries to bring the half-time score to 10-20.

Both sides were gaining in confidence and it showed up in the first 10 minutes of the second half as they scored three tries each.

Every time the away team scored, Baglan hit back to level the second half score at 15-15 with Bridgend Sports retaining an overall 35-25 lead as the game entered the final quarter. Bridgend Sports' three tries were scored by Mackenzie Dent (2) and Callum Lewis.

The Sports sealed the game in the final quarter with a further four tries, one for Harri Williams and Morgan Edwards before Mackenzie Dent and Joel Rogers rounded the game off with further tries to make the final score 25-55 to the Sports.

It was pleasing to see both sides enjoy the game and for Bridgend Sports under-11s to rediscover their all-round game and show confidence in all players as all squad members took the field to share game time.

**Squad:** Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins; Ben King; Cadan Hayes; Callum Lewis; Chloe Gant; Cian John; Dewi Worrall; Harri Williams; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jodie Keane; Joel Rogers; Mackenzie Dent; Mason Balmer; Morgan Edwards; Richard Kirkup; Thomas Chick.

SP

# PORTHCAWL BRIDGE NEWS

**THE Porthcawl Duplicate Bridge Club's Championship Pairs for the Sid Gibbons Salver was recently held with John Beard and Rob Charlesworth winning fairly easily.**

Latest results from the club are: Saturday, September 10: first - Terry Dolan and Peter Bennett; second - Tony Haworth and John Beard.

Thursday, September 15 Club Championship Pairs. First - Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second - Connie Dick and Pat Cogbill.

Saturday, September 17: first - Keith Davison and Steve Burgoyne; second - Terry Dolan and Peter Bennett.

Thursday, September 22: first - Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second - Sue Anthony and Peter Bennett.

The club meets twice a week: Saturday and Thursday, at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 6.45pm-9.45pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794

TH

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## Family Notices

**PROSSER**  
**Adrian**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Adrian Prosser, a long time resident of Llantwit Major, a strong and loving father and a good friend to many. He loved art, literature and music, and in retirement Adrian learned to sail and travelled much of the world.

Adrian will be sorely missed by his wife Diane, his children Alan, David and Paul, grandson Owen and granddaughter Seren.

A funeral service is scheduled for 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, October 4, with a gathering in his honour at The White Hart in Llantwit Major afterwards.

**BOTWOOD**  
**Heather**

Passed away on September 21, much loved sister of Peter and Noreen and aunt of Deborah, Sarah and Ned.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral service at St Catherine's Church, Kings Road, Cardiff at 1.30pm on Monday, October 3, followed by interment at Cardiff Western Cemetery. Floral tributes may be sent to J. Pidgeon & Son Ltd, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1BD.

**BROWN**  
**Ronald William**

Peacefully at the Bellavista care home, Barry, after a long illness on September 23, Ron, formerly of Dunster Cottage, South Road, Sully. Dearly beloved husband of Barbara, much loved father of Jeremy, Terry and Christine, loving grandfather and great grandfather to all his grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams and Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Wednesday, October 5 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Alzheimer's Society, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Cardiff, CF23 5DA.

**SMART**  
**Daniel Thomas**

Peacefully on September 19 at Llandough Hospital, Daniel Thomas (Dan), aged 89 years, of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Betty. Beloved father of the late Terrence (Terry).

Dan will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, October 6. Funeral service and Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 3pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Air Ambulance.

**DERBYSHIRE**  
**Peter**

It is with great sadness that the family announce the passing of Peter on September 7. Devoted husband to Kathy and a much loved dad of Debbie, Samantha, Racheal, Richard and their families. A special brother to Gwen.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Peter is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, October 4 at 1pm. Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support the Wales Air Ambulance and Barry Dock RNLI in memory of Peter. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

**MONTGOMERY**  
**Dorothy (Dot)**

Peacefully on September 22 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Barry. Dot beloved wife of the late Alf. Much loved mum to Linda, Janet, Andrew, Julie and the late Kay. Respected mother-in-law of Trevor, Phil and Lynda also a cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

Dot will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Monday, October 3 at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Cardiff and the Vale Breast Cancer Now in memory of Dot. Further enquiries contact Nicola Ellis, 01446 407962.

**GRIFFITH-JONES**  
**Glenys Margaret**

We are very sad to announce the passing of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother on Sunday, September 18 at Llandough Hospital in the presence of her family. Greatly missed by her beloved husband Roger, sons Martin and Julian and daughter Verity. Much loved by her twelve grandchildren, partners and six great grandchildren.

No words can describe how much she will be missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Sons, Barry until funeral service on Tuesday, October 4 at 11am, followed by committal at Barry Crematorium. The family send their thanks to all her home carers and the nursing staff on Ward East 7 at Llandough Hospital who gave her and them such loving support through this difficult time. Flowers may be sent to funeral home. Donations, if desired, to the Dementia ward, East 16, Llandough Hospital.

**GATT**  
**Carolyn Jane**

Peacefully on September 22, loving partner to John and much loved daughter to Lilian and Philip. Cherished sister to Michael and Rachel, caring sister-in-law to Sonia and Deri and beloved auntie to Rebecca, Joseph, Olivia and Sophie and devoted nanny to Rileigh.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry. Funeral service to take place on Monday, October 3 at All Saints Church, Barry at 1pm, followed by the committal at The Natural Burial Ground, CF5 6SG at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, can be made at the service in memory of Carolyn to Marie Curie Holme Tower, Penarth.

**REID**  
**Eric**

Sadly passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on Saturday, September 24.

Funeral service will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, October 6 at 2.15pm. The family would like to thank the doctors and the nurses of the Critical Care Unit for their care and attention.

**JONES**  
**Guy Treharn Howel**

Peacefully at home on September 25 with his family. Guy, much loved husband of Fran, a good friend to all, will be sadly missed. Funeral service at St Dochdwy Church, Llandough on Tuesday, October 4 at 2pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only.

## In Memory

**LEE**  
**Phyllis**

In loving memory of our wonderful mum Phyllis Lee

We never ask for miracles  
But today just one miracle  
To see our front door open  
And our dearest Mum  
walk through.

Missed so very much,  
from all your loving children



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## Acknowledgements

**VENNERS**  
**Peter**

Jean, Stephen and Jonathan would like to say a big thank you to all the family and friends who came to celebrate Peter's life. Also, many thanks for the cards and flowers received by us all.

To Cannon O'Gorman, thank you for conducting the funeral service with dignity. Many thanks to Lyndsay Ellis for everything, and to St Andrews Golf Club. Our heartfelt thanks to all the staff on the first floor, Marie Curie, for the devotion and comfort given to Peter, it was greatly appreciated. Last but not least, many thanks for the donations to Marie Curie.

**DRISCOLL**  
**Frances Clare**

Tony and Thelma would like to thank Canon Pat O'Gorman for the beautiful Mass of the Requiem. Also, the Angels of St. Barrachs unit, Barry Hospital who cared for Frances for four years and the Forge Care Centre where she received the kindest gentlest care, and to all who joined us in the service.

We will remember you all with love.

## Birthdays

**Happy 50th Birthday**  
**Andrew Williams**  
on 6 October  
Love Mum, L. & Family xxx

**Ann Brinsdon**  
**Happy 80th Birthday**  
on 4th October  
Lots of love Dad, Ian, Fay, Cristina and Jared, and all your friends and family xxx

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# EILEEN'S WISH COMES TRUE AS RENEE IS REMEMBERED AT TENOVUS CONCERT

PHOTOGRAPHS by JOHN O'BEIRNE

THE Concert in the Park took place at Belvedere Park, Barry, last Saturday. There was singing from the 'Barry Tenovus Sing with Us Choir', the 'Vale People First Real Lives Choir' and 'Young People's Rap Group' and South Wales Police Band.

On the day, Vale Mayor, Coun Stuart Egan, told those gathered at Belvedere Park that Tenovus choirs offered a true message of hope, adding that the organiser of the event Eileen Moore had a very special reason for inspiring it.

Coun Egan explained: "Founded by 10 businessmen in 1943, Tenovus has become one of the most pioneering and successful charities in the field of cancer research.

"Tenovus Sing with Us choirs are fun, uplifting and friendly, and are open to anyone affected by cancer whether they're a patient, survivor, carer or someone who has been bereaved through cancer.

"Supported by lovely volunteers who make sure all new members feel welcome, the Barry choir is no exception – it's a friendly, smiley group which started in September 2013.

"Many members of the Barry Tenovus Choir are survivors or have experience of the trauma of cancer. The choir are a fantastic support for each other and also send the message of hope to anyone else affected by the disease. It's not just a choir, but a community. Singing is everywhere and singing is in every one of us.

"I would like to thank all involved today, but especially the organiser Eileen, who, last year, wanted to do something nice to remember her late sister and thought it would be nice to hold a concert especially as many other people have lost dear ones.

"Eileen's twin sister Renee was the first woman in the world to trial a new drug and, although she knew it would not help her, she agreed to undergo the treatment for the benefit of others.

"I am sure there will be many more 'Concerts in the Park' to come. All proceeds today will go to Tenovus."



Vale Mayor Stuart Egan, event organiser Eileen Moore and Jane Hutt the Vale's Assembly Member.





# Ploughing maestros show how it's done – with tractors or just the old-fashioned way

On Sunday, September 25, the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held the annual ploughing match at Little West, by kind permission of Graham David and family of Norton Hall Farm. Graham is this year's president of the society and a long-time supporter.

Over 40 tractors and horses turned up after a night of heavy rain, which made it difficult for lorries to enter the field. However, the day turned out to be very successful, in spite of one or two heavy showers.

The four teams of horses were a great attraction, showing how ploughing was done in years gone by, in comparison to today.

All classes of ploughing were supported with a good standard of workmanship and the ladies were also putting in a good show.

The Ferguson Club staged the Welsh

Dragon Championship for the Ferguson T.20 – or the 'little grey fergy' – which is 70 years old this year, having been produced in Coventry from 1946 to 1956 by Harry Ferguson.

The judge, Arthur Williams from mid-Wales, remarked on the improvement over the years in the standard of ploughing in this class, with the popularity of the T.20 and GP Plough continually growing.

The results of the ploughing match were:

## Ferguson T.20

Class: Champion, John Evans; runner-up, Graham Jones; third,

Will Jones; fourth, Andrew Drinkwater; fifth, Basil George.

The sponsor for the Class was Ledley Engineering, Llandow.

## Horse Ploughing:

First, Roger Smith; second, Kym Williams; third, Michael Puxty.

Class 1 - Open Vintage Trailer, first Andrew Isaac.

Class 3 - Classic Class: First, Jeremy Jacobs; second, Ceri Richards; third, Andrew Thomas.

Class 5 - Novice Conventional Multi Furrow: first, Jamie Isaac; second, Rebecca Lewis; third, Peter

Batchelor.

Class 6 - Commercial Reversible: First, Mike Thomas; second, Robert Mathews; third, Edward Thomas.

## 30 Minute Class:

First, Mike Thomas; second, Adam Llewellyn; third, Lloyd

Thomas.

The Alban Wilde Perpetual Trophy was awarded to Mike Thomas for the best work done by a Glamorgan competitor in Class 6.

The Edwin Leonard Memorial Trophy was awarded to Jeremy

Jacobs for the best work done on the day by a Glamorgan competitor.

Glamorgan Farmers Club Trophy was awarded to Edward Thomas (Gileston) for the best work done by a Glamorgan competitor aged 26 or less.

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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## Bridgend family firm downs tools to help the homeless



Simon Jehu and Elin Evans.

**MORE than 120 Welsh property professionals swapped their suits for swimming goggles, cycling shorts and running shoes to raise over £6,500 for Wales' homeless at the Wales Property Triathlon, organised by the Jehu Group, in aid of its chosen charity of the year, Llamau.**

Staff from the Jehu Group and Waterstone Homes, together with many of their clients, including Principality Building Society, Berry Smith, Coastal Housing Group and Newydd Housing Association took part in the sprint triathlon, which involved a 500m pool swim, 20k bike ride and 5k run in the Bridgend area.

As the chosen charity for 2016, this brings the total figure raised by the company for the Welsh homeless charity to over £10,000 following a number of fundraising activities, including a property band night and auction in June.

The money raised will support Llamau in its efforts to support and empower those experiencing homelessness.

Elin Evans, Corporate and Community Fundraiser at Llamau said: "Homelessness is, sadly, a frightening reality for thousands of people across Wales and an issue that we are working hard to combat. Last year, Llamau supported over 5,000 vulnerable women and young people. This year we have supported over 8,000 people in desperate need of our services.

"The demand on our services increases year on year and we are extremely thankful to Jehu Group for selecting

Llamau as its charity of the year and raising awareness of a very important issue. It was great to see such a fantastic turnout and the money raised will make a huge difference to the lives of our service users and will help us to continue to be there for the people who need our help."

Now in its fourth year, the annual triathlon was originally started in honour of former Jehu Group employee, Hugh Walker, who sadly lost his life aged 46, just four months after being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

The family-run construction and property firm has raised thousands of pounds in his honour, with Brain Tumour Research selected as the company's charity of the year for 2014 and 2015.

This year's event, hosted at Pencoed Pool and Rugby Club, included individual competitors, as well as teams of three, with separate members swimming, cycling and running.

Managing Director at Jehu Group, Simon Jehu, said: "As a family company, and with our personal ties to the history of the triathlon, the annual event is very close to our hearts and we are passionate about raising money for important causes. With an estimated 140,000 people experiencing homelessness in Wales in the last year, this is an issue that can affect anybody.

"We are pleased to raise such a significant sum for Llamau. It is vital that the charity can continue to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding of the issues surrounding homelessness and we hope our efforts will help make this happen."

## LIONS' BOOST YOUNG CARERS



PRESIDENT O.J. Paton Bridgend Lions Club presented a cheque for the sum of £500 to the Bridgend Young Carers at Brackla Family Centre on Monday (September 26).

The Young Carers practitioner Gemma Rees

was "delighted" to accept the cheque. The group, pictured with Gemma, were aged eight to 12 years, but there are other groups who visit the centre aged 13-15 years and 15-18 years - who all care for either siblings or parents in the borough.

## 'Power station workers need certainty,' - says an AM

**THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives Andrew RT Davies AM said it is vital workers at Aberthaw Power Station receive certainty regarding the plant's future, following a European Court ruling.**

The power station, which employs 600 people, emphasises that by making changes to its

operating regime and modifications it will make a contribution to energy supply into the 2020s.

Last week, the European Court of Justice said the power station had failed to limit pollution emissions.

Mr Davies said employees would be concerned by the development, and he has arranged a meeting with station manager Richard Little to discuss the situation.

Mr Davies said:

"Aberthaw Power Station is a major employer in the Vale. This ruling will obviously be of deep concern to them, as they will understandably want certainty and to know where things stand.

"I have therefore contacted RWE energy to ask for the situation to be clarified, and I am looking forward to meeting station manager Richard Little - where I will raise these concerns."

Keith Stockdale of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth welcomed the judgement.

"We're pleased that RWE's special permission for high pollution from Aberthaw since 2008 has now been judged illegal. We see the yellow peril stretching over the Severn."

### INVESTMENT

A spokeswoman for RWE said it was disappointed by the European Court of Justice's ruling.

"The decision rules against the UK Government's application and interpretation of one specific provision of the relevant environmental directive - the 'Large Combustion Plant Directive'.

"Environmental protection is of the utmost priority to RWE Generation and Aberthaw remains fully compliant with all permits that control emissions from the site and associated requirements for monitoring and reporting.

"We will work with the UK and Welsh Governments and Natural Resources Wales to accommodate the changes to the way the station is regulated as a result of the EU ruling which will enforce an alternative interpretation of the legislation.

"The investment planned for the station is unaffected by this ruling. "Aberthaw Power

Station is specifically designed to burn Welsh coal and over the years at least 60 per cent of its annual fuel diet has been from local suppliers."

She stressed that there had been a huge investment in ensuring the power station reduced any adverse effect on the environment.

"The company has invested hundreds of millions of pounds in different technologies to reduce the station's environmental impact; these investments include the installation of flue gas desulphurisation to reduce SO2 emissions, equipment to allow biomass combustion and the re-engineering of the station's steam turbines to improve significantly the plant's operational efficiency.

"To improve the station's nitrogen oxide performance new boiler technology has recently been fitted to one of its units and this has significantly reduced emissions.

"The station is also committed to modifying the plant to enable it to accept a more diverse range of international coal, which will further reduce emissions."

### WELSH COAL

Supplies of Welsh coal to the site will be affected.

Richard Little, the station manager commented: "Compliance with this ruling, under continuing difficult market conditions for coal generation, will have a wider cost.

"It is with regret that it will mean our ability to use large amounts of Welsh coal is reduced somewhat earlier than might otherwise have been necessary.

"Despite this we believe that with plant efficiencies, modifications, and changes to our operating regime, the station can continue to support security of supply into

## Good career prospects in pipeline for apprentice Aaron aged 18

**A YOUNG man from Bridgend has started his apprenticeship training programme with Wales & West Utilities as he bids to play a role in the future of the company.**

Aaron, age 18 from Pen-y-Fai, said: "I am thrilled to have been accepted onto Wales & West Utilities apprenticeship scheme.

The number of places on offer meant the competition was extremely tough, so getting a place is amazing.

"Wales & West Utilities has an impressive record of continuous training and it means I can now develop my career in a working environment with some of the best training in the industry."

The new recruit, Aaron Leyshon, earned a place on the company's apprenticeship programme and will now



Aaron Leyshon.

train to support its multi-million pound work across Wales and the south west of England.

He is part of the company's latest apprenticeship programme which sees 24 people from across its operating area join the company.

The apprentices will carry out all their training at Wales & West Utilities' state-of-the-art training academies in Treforest, south Wales and Bridgwater, Somerset, as well as in local colleges.

## JAN PENS A TROPHY!

**BRIDGEND Writers' Circle has announced that Porthcawl poet and author Jan Davies has won the Saviker trophy for the second year running.**

The Saviker competition consists of three pieces of writing: a poem, a short story and another piece of prose (in 2016: a memoir). It is judged externally and the prize is awarded to the writer with the best overall performance.

The theme, this year, was 'The Countryside' and local author Laura Foakes was asked to adjudicate.

The BWC meets on the first Thursday of the month at Carnegie House. New members are welcome.



## EYECATCHING CELEBRATION AT OPTICIANS

**BRIDGEND opticians Specsavers has unveiled a £160,000 refurbishment, at Adare Street and celebrated with a fundraising event that saw children having their faces painted and featured performances from the Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir. It raised £221 for Specsavers Bridgend's charity of the year, Tŷ Hafan.**



## Lions thank sponsor



*Park Lions under-8s and their coaches Gino and Steven would like to say a huge thank you to Ken and Sarah of Catch and Despatch Delivery Services for sponsoring them this season.*

*The teams are looking forward to another great season - if you'd like any further information about the club please contact Kim on 07772 955635.*

## Barry Seconds' momentum is cut short by Llanishen

**BARRY RFC Second Llanishen.**

Coach Rhidian Scott and Ken Chow were once again handed a long list of players being unavailable and so were forced to juggle their

resources once more.

The starting line-up showed no less than nine changes from the side that beat Old Penarthians handsomely last time out.

Playing with the elements and slope in their favour, Barry moved to take the advantage in the first interval, and despite a rusty start, which was expected from the number of changes, slowly began to dominate in the tight.

The scrum, in particular, was impressive, but neither side were helped by the official who seemed intent of blowing his whistle at regular intervals with decisions that baffled spectators, coaches and players.

It was Barry who came out on top with these exchanges, and after Tom Adams was denied a try on the touchline by a dangerously high tackle which somehow did not result in a penalty try, Barry recycled the ball and made their territory tell when John Dimond crashed over from close range. Joe McCann was unable to add the extras.

Llanishen showed that they were dangerous with ball in hand, but were made to pay just minutes later when over elaboration saw Luke Bounds intercept from halfway and race clear to score his second try in as many games. McCann stroked over the conversion to hand his side a 12-0 lead.

However, from then on, the momentum swung. After the home side had valiantly held out on their line and McCann cleared the apparent danger, some

non-existent tackling allowed Llanishen to saunter through to score a converted try with not a hand laid on the attacker.

With Cieran Thomas being forced off with a broken thumb, more disruption was brought to the home side and the visitors took full advantage of the confused defensive line to score before the break and take the lead.

With Seb Vidal withdrawn at half-time following possible concussion, and players now playing out of position, a comeback seemed unlikely.

Barry did put on some early pressure in the second half, but as a rolling maul neared the Llanishen line, the official somehow stopped play to award the hosts a penalty, despite Barry looking to gain the advantage by scoring a try.

The penalty came to nothing and some smart, incisive play, combined with some poor tackling, saw Llanishen increase their lead with an unconverted try.

Barry seemed to run out of ideas and would not be able to force an unlikely comeback, and instead it was the visitors who crowned their victory with a fourth try.

Barry second XV visit

St Josephs this weekend.

Team: Hamonda; F

Peake, G Peake, Bounds,

Adams; McCann,

Dimond; Hall, Evans,

Brown; McTavish (c),

Deyes; Jones, Thomas,

Vidal. Replacements:

Turnbull, Hewitson,

Leech, substitute not

used: Fortt. Man of the

match: Deyes. Referee:

M Aherne. KC

## Boxing club has reopened

**THE refurbished Rhosoe Boxing Club has opened its doors for the start of the new season after the summer break.**

A long-serving club for the community and the Vale, it has produced a very high standard of boxers over many years and is held in a high status in the boxing world.

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## Barry Seconds put opposition to the sword in East District Cup



**AFTER a slow start to their season, Barry Second XV travelled the short distance to local rivals Old Penarthians for the first round of the East District Cup, hoping to reverse their fortunes.**

Coach Rhidian Scott and caretaker manager Glyn Pirso were boosted by the return of several absentees, and the squad saw a balance of forward power and finesse out wide.

Barry soon found that they had the advantage out wide, and with captain Joel Williams at fly-half pulling the strings, they soon put their hosts to the sword.

This is not to say that the pack were mere bystanders; Barry were also dominant up front with Chris Deyes particularly outstanding, especially in the line out.

Late inclusion Brad White took full advantage of his side's

dominance, running in four tries to add to his personal haul against the same opposition two years ago.

Chris Chucas, on his first start of the season, bagged a brace, while Luke Bounds, another one to play his first game this campaign, also crossed.

Dylan Robertson bagged himself a try and five conversions before he was withdrawn from the action.

Joel Williams and Dave Evans also crossed the try-line as Barry completed the rout and ease into the next round of the cup competition where they will face Pontyclun away on October 8.

Team: Robertson; C Chucas, White, Bounds, Peake; J Williams (c), Dimond; Hall, Evans, Fort; Deyes, Brooke; Clarke, Thomas, Rolfe.

Replacements: M Williams, Jones,

Hewitson, J Chucas,

Leech. KC





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miles, high spec, low road tax .....**£4,995**
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blue, 52,000 miles, Diesel hatch .....**£4,995**
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# 100 per cent start continues for Vale United

**VALE UNITED continued their 100 per cent start to the season in this pulsating encounter against a youthful AFC Rhose side.**

Vale came into the game having not conceded in three previous games, while Rhose had taken just two points from their opening four games and resided one from bottom of the league.

Vale were once again forced to make changes, with Thomas Hopkin slotting in for the absent Rhys Edwards at right-back, skipper Richard Evans returning to partner Steve Harris at centre back and the fit-again Phil Caseley returning to the boiler house.

There were also recalls for target man, Nathan Jenkins and Jay Tominey in the front three, as Vale looked to extend their perfect start to the campaign.

The afternoon got off to an awful start for the hosts, with Rhose taking an unexpected lead inside the first 30 seconds.

Some hesitant defending allowed the ball to bobble through to the Rhose number 10, who managed to poke the ball under the advancing Gerwyn Teague and into the corner of the net.

It was a fairy-tale start for the visitors, though scoring so early can often prove to be more of a hindrance to some teams, not knowing whether to stick or twist on their quick-fire start.

Vale's free flowing football, which has catapulted them to the top of the league, was sadly lacking in the opening exchanges, but their battling qualities were the for all to see and it was these qualities that led to the equaliser.

Some tenacious work down the right hand side by Tominey, saw him clip a beautiful ball over the top of the experienced Rhose centre back for Nathan Jenkins to latch on to, the frontman applying the finishing touch with a deft lob over the stranded visiting 'keeper.

It was another goal to add to the rugged forward's scrapbook in an impressive debut season following his move from Bryncae.

The goal denied Rhose's self-belief and Vale started to get a foothold in the game, finally beginning to play the exciting brand of football which has served them so well, so far, this season.

They came close not long after, a superb, drilled cross from the left-hand side by Jack Dummett just about evading everyone in the box and going behind for a goal-kick.

However, the second home goal wasn't long in coming, this time coming from the penalty spot after some clever work from Dummett saw him taken from behind in the box, leaving the referee no choice but to award the penalty and the defender lucky to escape further action.

It was once again up to skipper, Richard Evans, to take the spot-kick and for the third time in four attempts this season, he slotted the ball home comfortably to give the home team a well-deserved lead.

Vale mounted wave after wave of attack in the hope of doubling their lead before half time, with the returning Phil Caseley and Matt Hobbs the creative influences and Joe Williams his usual, all action self but they were unable to grab a third goal before half time and went into the half-time interval satisfied with what they had, especially after the shock of trailing so early on in proceedings.

The hosts came out after half time hoping to pick up where they left off but were unable to replicate the tempo and quality of football they had shown in glimpses in the final 15 minutes of the first half, whilst also looking untroubled at the back.

With the next goal likely to be crucial to the outcome of the game, neither team seemed happy to take any risks and it became increasingly likely that a set-piece would provide the next goal and so it proved.

Some more selfless work from hefty centre-forward, Nathan Jenkins, saw him clipped on the edge of the box and for the second week running, midfield lynchpin, Matt Hobbs produced an exquisite free-kick that flew over the wall and nestled in the top right-hand corner of the 'keeper's net.

This was as good as it got for United, uncharacteristic errors throughout the team putting themselves under pressure, though the drive and commitment from each player was still on show for all to see, numerous last ditch tackles and blocks ensuring they kept their two goal advantage for the majority of the half, although Rhose did pull a goal back with 10 minutes to go.

Some slack marking in the hosts box saw the visitors' number 6 head home unchallenged from 10 yards out.

It very rarely looked like kick-starting a memorable comeback, however, and Vale saw out the rest of the game in rather comfortable fashion and in turn maintaining their 100 per cent start to the season.

GT

# Presidents XIII too strong for Lionhearts

**IN the first game of a brand new Welsh representative side, created to bridge the gap between the full international side and the Wales Dragonhearts, the Wales Presidents XIII eventually eased to a win over West of England Lionhearts, but not without the odd scare over the 80 minutes.**

The Welsh players came from all over the nation, from North Wales Crusaders to South Wales Ironmen and a number of the top community clubs, all wearing the shorts and socks of their club side, and they took on an equally broadly representative side from south-west England's community clubs.

And it was the English who took the lead despite some early pressure for the Welsh, Joe Uren going over in the corner, but Jamie Deal failed to land the conversion.

Wales soon hit back, Rhys Gant, fresh from winning a trophy at the South Wales Scorpions'

awards night hours early, made a clean break and scored under the sticks.

Mike Hurley easily converted to make the score 6-4, and following a short break due to an injury, Wales further increased their lead. Dean Higgs going over from dummy half and Hurley making it 12-4.

With his first touch of the ball after coming on as a sub, Harry Boots was sent in under the sticks for Wales' third try. Hurley's kick made it 18-4.

West of England hit back following an error in the Wales backline. The former Cardiff Demons centre and Malta international Paul Bartlett took advantage by scoring just short of the left corner. A great kick brought the score back to 18-10.

But the Welsh addressed the balance before the interval when Lewis Hughes was sent over in the corner. Hurley sliced the kick wide but the Welsh had a healthy two try lead.

West of England took first blood in the second half with Kyle Phillips scoring in the corner and

Deal missing the kick, the score being brought back to 22-14.

The Welsh hit back straight away with Ethan Coombes using his strength to score on the right centre. Hurley's conversion attempt hit the post and went in, to give his side a 14-point lead.

A try under the sticks for Shane Lee, converted by Hurley extended the advantage further. Morgan Jeffries scored the next but it was a touch of class from Gant and Josh Stafford-Smith that gave him the try near to the sticks and the Hurley goal bringing the score up to 40-14.

Jeffries soon went over again for a good individual effort with Hurley nicely placing the goal through the black dot, but his West Wales Raiders team-mate couldn't join him in a brace, Boots fumbled whilst under pressure when diving for the line.

They reached the 50 with the last play of the game. Lee Goddard setting up Dean Higgs to go under the posts and Gant adding the final points with the conversion, the final score 52-14.

IG

## CAVC rugby team defeat the champions

**CARDIFF and Vale College's Rugby Academy team has secured a 15-14 win over reigning champions Coleg y Cymoedd in the final round of qualification matches in the WRU under-18 Midweek League.**

Previously unbeaten in 28 games, Coleg y Cymoedd finished the first half 14-0 in the lead but the visitors from CAVC hit back in the second.

Centre Dafydd Smith and replacement full back Tony Lamerton both scored tries, one of

which was converted by outside half Ben Thomas, who also landed the last minute penalty which took the final score to 15-14.

CAVC director of rugby, Martyn Fowler, said: "The wins puts us ahead of year two in our five-year strategy and it's particularly pleasing as Cymoedd have not lost a game in the league going back 28 matches to October 2012.

"For that length of time they have set the benchmark for us and everyone else in Wales, if not the UK. We now have to make results like this the norm and not the exception - and then we'll be happy!"

## Your chance to play hockey!

**PENARTH Hockey Club launch Primary Outreach Scheme to promote hockey in primary schools in Penarth and the Vale.**

Following the success of the GB Ladies Hockey team at the Rio Olympics, Penarth Men's Hockey Club, with support from Community Chest, have launched an initiative to promote and support the take up and on going development of hockey in primary schools in Penarth and across the Vale.

The scheme entails the provision of kit, coaching and coach training for teachers in the schools and the on going support for teachers and participants in terms of skills uplift.

The aims of the initiative are - to increase the number of primary aged children enjoying hockey; to increase

coaching standards; to increase junior club membership; to support kids having fun through hockey in a safe environment.

The first phase covering five primary schools is already underway and further phases will bring more and more schools in to the scheme.

Further information on the scheme for schools and parents can be obtained from Judith Powell (judepowell2307@hotmail.co.uk) or David Stevens (d\_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk).

In the meantime, Penarth Hockey Club training continues every Wednesday at Stanwell School, 6.15pm-7.15pm for juniors from six-years-old, 7pm-8.15pm for seniors.

JP

## New pool league launch a success

**THE Vale of Glamorgan Pool League would like to thank THE GEM for its help in launching this new Thursday night venture.**

There's been a surprising high level of interest in only the first two weeks of this venture.

The aim of this league is to promote 8 ball pool and establish not one, but two county teams to play in the welsh pool association interleague.

Plans are in place for a competition in Barry for the best players to compete against each other in a very competitive tournament.

The best players going forward to play for the two county teams. We have known for a long time, this area is blessed with some outstanding pool and snooker players.

All they need is a platform to compete where they can show their prodigious talents.

Chris Bardsley and Ryan Rowlands are two players who quickly spring to mind.

For those who have not signed up yet, there's plenty of time to do so.

Here's a list of local pubs looking for one more team to join the league: the Master Mariner, Tadross Hotel, the Castle, Fizz Bar, the Liberals, the Buccaneer, the Savoy snooker club, the Sea View, Finnegan's, Ship Hotel and Fontygary Inn and the Sully Sports club, all wanting one more team to join the league.

Any enquiries please text Joe on 07870 498 738 or email valeofglamorganpoolleague@gmail.com.

JB

**Go to our dedicated sports page for the latest stories and breaking news...**

**@sport\_gem**

## The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

**VALE United remain undefeated and sit six points clear at the top of the Premier Division as they continued their perfect start to the season with a 3-2 win over Rhose.**

Cowbridge Town got their first league win of the campaign with a stunning 5-1 demolition of Barry Athletic in somewhat of a surprise result.

Elsewhere, St Athan and Penarth Town kept in touch with the leaders, St Athan edging out Tynnewydd 2-1 while Penarth were in seventh heaven as they won 7-2 against Masons Moving Group. Dinas Athletic won a tight affair 3-2 against Island Marine.

In the First Division, Barry Belgrade became the new league leaders with a 3-0 victory over Cadoxton Athletic while FC Pumas were held 1-1 by Dockers. Barry Athletic B saw off Sully Sports 5-2.

Second Division leaders Cadoxton Imps

continued their 100 per cent start to the season with 3-0 triumph over Barry Albion.

BVFC drew level on points with Barry Saints in second with a 1-0 win over FC Pumas B, while St Athan B won for the second week running with a 3-2 victory over Rhose B. Finally, Penarth Town B went fourth with 4-2 win over Island Marine B.

This week is a reduced league program with the second round of the Barry Cup.

Game of the day in the leagues should be FC Pumas vs Sully Sports in Division One, while in the cup there are several intriguing ties with Division Two high-fliers Barry Saints looking for a giant killing against Premier Division leaders Vale United.

SP Billy will be looking for second Premier Division upset, meanwhile, as they play Rhose.

HD

## Sea View Lads angling results

**RECENT fishing competitions have enjoyed mixed support but some good fishing has been enjoyed by those making the effort to turn up.**

The same goes for the boat section where some good fishing is on tap.

As ever, then social side of the club continues to be active with a successful trip to Weymouth recently being held where anglers weighed in 12 different species, including fish that we rarely see locally such as black bream, garfish and mackerel.

The first leg of the Golden Maggot was won by Aida Harris, Mike Langford took second with Mike Kerslake in

third. All to fish for on the second leg since you would only be chasing four species!

The autumn species are in so there is plenty to fish for and winter is around the corner so dust off those rods and come along for a session!

### RESULTS

September 21: 1st P Coles 11b 2oz, September 18: 1st P Crook 9lb 2oz, 2nd P Coles 3lb 6oz, 3rd A Harris 13oz.

September 11: 1st A Harris 7lb 07, 2nd K Salah 6lb 12.

August 28: 1st A Harris 26lb 11oz, 2nd K Salah 13lb 5oz, 3rd C Mcinery 10lb 15oz, 4th P Coles 10lb 4oz, 5th P Crook 9lb 7oz, 6th M Langford 5lb 5oz.

August 24: 1st M Langford 7lb 7oz, 2nd S Doble 4lb 2oz.

JC

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## Athletic defeated in ding-dong encounter

**DIVISION 1 West Central is becoming a very competitive league as the only two previously unbeaten sides, Bridgend Athletic and Aberavon Quins, both suffered defeats in the fourth games of league calendar.**

The Athletic went down 40 points to 26 at Ammanford, while the Quins suffered a 23-21 defeat at the Athletic's next opponents Trebanos. The Quins still lead the table with Trebanos moving one place above the Athletic into second place.

The Athletic were unable to use their youth contingent as they were playing at the Brewery Field in a first round Webb Ellis Welsh Youth cup tie.

They were also hit by late withdrawals on the day and arrived at Ammanford with only 18 players, with coach Stuart Morris forced to name himself on the substitutes bench.

The Athletic started

brightly and No 8 Stuart Edbrooke started and finished a move involving flanker Ben Howe and lock Jonathon Stoker to cross for the game's first try.

They then lost centre Rhys Ward Jones and Stuart Morris had to take his place in the back division.

Ammanford then struck back when full back Ceri Rees entered the line to cross for a try converted by outside half Lee Davies.

Athletic outside half Scot Govan restored the Athletic lead when he slotted a penalty following the home side infringing at a ruck.

This was short lived as Rees crossed for his second converted try to open up a 14-8 advantage.

Govan then kicked a second penalty.

A series of forward drives then tied in the Ammanford defence and when the ball was released to the backs vis scrum half Tom McArdle and Scot Govan, centre Garin Lougher made an incisive break to cross for his first Athletic try.

Govan's conversion

gave the Athletic an 18-14 half time lead.

Ammanford were having difficulty legally halting the Athletic ball carriers with Edbrooke, Griff Davies, Iestyn Merriman and Rod Apsee prominent, and conceded another penalty which Govan converted to stretch the lead to 21-14.

Back came Ammanford with a Steffan Jones converted try to level the scores.

Athletic scrum half Tom McArdle left the field for 10 minutes with a blood injury with hooker Simon Mustoe coming into the back row and No 8 Edbrooke filling in at scrum half.

The Athletic pack had been dominating the set piece scrummage where props Apsee and Matt Muir and hooker Nathan Holman won strikes against the head and a succession of penalties, when, for the third successive week, a substitution of the Ammanford tighthead again nullified the Athletic scrum as the scrums were forced to go passive.

Ammanford took full

advantage of the Athletic having to stay down at the scrummage and the reshuffled Athletic back division to run in three tries in a seven minute period to open up a 40-21 lead.

Athletic wing Chris Walker made a fine run from inside his own half and was present when his chip ahead was recycled and claimed

his second try of the season to conclude the scoring at 40-26 to the home side.

This Saturday, October 1, third-placed Athletic entertain second-placed Trebanos at Newbridge Fields, before travelling to Nantymoel on October 8 for a first round SWALEC Plate cup round.

AB



The red card for Penlan proved critical as Tondy defeated them on Saturday - see more of GARETH ANTHONY's pictures at our website, [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)

## Tondy RFC take advantage of the 14 men of Penlan

**A fifth minute penalty from Tondy outside half Paul Smithson was just the start of a powerful performance from the Waterwheelers that must have sent shock waves through the Swansea valley against Penlan.**

The visitors were 8-0 up a few minutes later when hooker Jake Lewis finished off a wonderful move with a try, while a red card for Penlan second row Kurt Velardro did not help the home side.

Tondy then extended their lead with a sensational move that ended with right wing Sam Grabham crashing over in the corner.

Smithson then kicked a second penalty for the visitors before Stefan Cambriani scored what was already a consolation for Penlan, Scott Davies adding the conversion to make the half-time score Penlan 7, Tondy 16.

The second half was almost all Tondy, as you would expect with a man advantage. Another Smithson penalty made it 19-7 to the visitors but despite relentless Tondy pressure it was the 78th minute before the visitors got what they deserved, when centre Josh Tatchell crossed in the corner to finish off a marvelous move and performance.

Tondy entertain Resolven this Saturday at Pandy Park, but here they certainly made a statement of intent.

MS

## Cefn Cribwr FC grab all three points

**CEFN CRIBWR FC travelled to Rhondda side Graig looking for a reaction after last week's home result.**

Cefn came flying out of the blocks as expected and managed to grab an early goal from former Tata steel playmaker Curtis Grant.

Cefn who were missing key players had a chance to prove the strength in depth and a sublime goal from Connor O'Connell only helped the cause.

Graig to their credit didn't stop but Cefn were determined and up stepped Cefn striker Tom Harris who went on to net no fewer than five times to ensure the three points came back to Cefn.

CCBC would like to thank the loyal group of supporters who made the trip up the M4 and the club would also like to congratulate coach David Evans on completing the Swansea 10k for a great cause.

Cefn reserves made the short trip across to Brynna and much the same as the firsts, wanted to make a statement after a poor result last week.

Cefn played some neat football and broke

the deadlock just after half-time with a precise free kick from Mark Galliers which met the head of the evergreen Jonathan Tossell to make it 1-0.

Cefn pushed on from there and two goals from TM Galliers and one from Jeff Alden sealed the win.

The Cefn development team went down 4-1 at home to a youthful Pen-y-Fai.

Cefn, who had a mix of young and old, battled until the end and a goal from Kairon Thomas, who made it three goals in three games, was the only consolation.

GB

## Bridgend Bridge Club LATEST NEWS

**THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:**

Wednesday, September 21: First, Tony Disley and John Evans; second, Marjorie Morris and Wendy Williams; third, Rob Forman and Alan Heath. The winners on handicap were Tony Disley and John Evans.

Thursday, September 22: First, Frances Heslin and Dee Finch; Second, John Evans and Maggie Ashpole; Third, Mike Williams and John Henson. The winners on handicap were Frances Heslin and Dee Finch.

Friday, September 23: First: Vida Halford and

Glyn Williams; second: John Evans and Steve Burgoyne; third, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

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## Porthcawl RFC take top spot in league after emphatic win

**PORTHCAWL RFC flew to the top of the division with this resounding 42-0 win at local rivals Bryncethin, their second on the road this season.**

Playing with an intensity that's hard to match, the Seaweeds got off to a flyer as centre Tom Bluck zipped in for an early try inside five minutes for 5-0.

Josh White got his reliable boot into action as a deliberate knock-down, strangely uncared, by the home defence presented the penalty opportunity and he duly knocked it over for 8-0, before popping over his second shortly afterwards, following a thunderous tackle by hooker Jack Williams on the home outside-half, and at 11-0 within as many minutes, Porthcawl were already cruising.

Scrum-half Ross Parsons, back from a stint playing in France, was a huge presence at the heels of his rampant pack and when he latched onto the ball 15 meters out, he drove over, aided by his pack, for the visitors second try, improved by White from wide-out and 18-0.

With the bulldozing Tom Butcher, returning open-side Leon McAlley and skipper Richard Hnyda leading the Porthcawl charge upfront, allied to White pulling the strings effectively behind, a drive deep into the Bryncethin half brought a further penalty which White's metronomic boot turned into three points.

Half-time provided a breather for the home side, who had done their best in patches to stem the flow from Porthcawl's relentless pressure, the score at this stage 21-0.

The second half continued in a similar vein to the first and with second row Ford Cooper providing plenty of dependable effort upfront for the Seaweeds and his drive in Porthcawl's scrum proved unstoppable.

The home scrum folded and the referee awarded a penalty try to Porthcawl, duly improved by White, for 28-0 and the match was effectively over as a contest.

Hard-running wing Jake Thomas suffered an ankle injury and left the field for Porthcawl, along with his team mate prop Tim Lunn, suffering from a calf injury, but this failed to blunt the Seaweeds' clinical approach.

When a scything midfield break by fullback Gareth Rees carved a gaping hole in Bryncethin's line, there was Bluck, skipping over for his second try, goaled by White for 35-0.

Butcher, who had a big game at No.8, and when he stole a home throw at a lineout near halfway, there was McAlley, galloping through Bryncethin's now desperate defence, before handing on to Bluck who gleefully completed his try hat-trick.

White's unerring boot provided the crowning conversion to complete the scoring at 42-0 and maximum points.

Coach Rhys James has now got his side playing an intensive, controlled yet free-flowing brand of rugby, and with Banwen visiting South Road on Saturday, home supporters will be expecting another sound display to consolidate the top-of-the-table position.

PF